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Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-94-067
Thursday
7 April 1994

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

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ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 7 Apr

LD0704074694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0616 GMT 7 Apr 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, April 7 (ITAR-TASS)—Under the headline "To Achieve Civil Accord in Russia", the ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI newspaper features the full draft of the appropriate agreement (version 1) of last March 27.

The newspaper also singles out a decision by President Boris Yeltsin on setting up Russian military bases in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States as well as in Latvia to ensure security of the Russian Federation and the above states as well as to test new weapons and combat materiel.

Deputy Director of the Institute of Europe Sergey Karaganov, D.Sc. (History), describes in an interview with the same newspaper President Yeltsin's programme of a Spanish visit which will start on April 11. It will be the first official visit by a Russian president to Spain.

According to Karaganov, the forthcoming talks in Madrid "can be described as a timely step of the two sides towards each other against the background of the latest trend of West European countries' certain aloofness from Russia".

This aloofness, he continues, was caused above all by dissatisfaction of many European states with the solution of their general domestic problems. The deputy director expresses confidence that the visit will yield positive results for the two countries in the political, economic and cultural spheres.

Under the title "Black Sea Fleet is a Political Notion Now", the KRASNAYA ZVEZDA newspaper carries an interview with the fleet commander, Admiral Eduard Baltin.

Noting that "Russia and Ukraine should equally appropriate funds" for the needs of the Black Sea Fleet in compliance with the Yalta agreement, the admiral states that "Russia has been virtually fully maintaining the fleet since the end of 1993".

The admiral stresses that "the two sides should take into account, above all, military need and economic expediency" while shaping up their relations with regard to the Black Sea Fleet. "In that case, relations will be good-neighbourly," Baltin adds.

The same newspaper runs a statement by Commander of Russian Border Troops Andrey Nikolayev to ITAR-TASS which is entitled "Russia will not put up with pillage". The newspaper writes that the press reports all the time about violations of Russian territorial waters by Japanese fishing vessels for illegal fishing.

In this connection, a decision was taken to launch a special operation on the eve of the fishing season to stop illegal fishing by foreign ships in the Pacific region, starting from April 20. It will be carried out gradually till next October.

Today's Moscow press singles out reports on the Komsomolets nuclear-powered submarine which sank in the Norwegian Sea as a result of a fire five years ago. It carried, apart from the nucler reactor, two torpedoes with nuclear warheads.

The tragedy tolled 42 lives. In this connection, the NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA newspaper, taking into account that the komsomolets was not decontaminated due to incompetence of people responsible for this case, calls on Russian authorities to take urgent measures to prevent a possible radiation disaster in the region of the submarine's wreckage.

The same newspaper runs information that the upper chamber of the Russian parliament did not accept on Wednesday the resignation of former Russian Prosecutor-General Aleksey Kazannik.

Byacheslav Nikonov, chairman of the lower house subcommittee on international security and arms control, examines in NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA a decision by Russian authorities to join NATO's programme "partnership for peace".

He notes that the existence of the programme does not depend on Russia's decisions. The programme will operate. "We could influence its implementation by participating in the programme.

"by obstaining from the programme, Russia would lose every chance to participate and will gain nothing, apart from glamorous self- isolation from the rest of Europe," Nikonov notes.

The TRUD newspaper describes "a veritable war against spring elements of nature" and the emergency situations which have developed in European Russia as well as in Siberia and the Far East.

Over 200,000 hectares of land are now flooded, the newspaper writes. "When do we learn lessons, at long last, from this war?" the newspaper asks.

Yeltsin Said To Approve Military Bases in CIS, Latvia

LD0604143394 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 1330 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Boris Yeltsin has approved a Defense Ministry proposal on creating Russian Armed Forces military bases on the territory of CIS countries and Latvia to ensure their common security and also to test new weapons and military equipment.

The president has instructed the Foreign and Defense Ministries to hold talks with these states in order to achieve the necessary agreements.

Text of Yeltsin Directive on Bases

PM0704081594 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 7 Apr 94 p 1

["Directive of the Russian Federation President" No. 174-rp, signed by Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin and dated 5 April 1994]

[Text] To agree with the proposal of the Russian Ministry of Defense, coordinated with the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on the creation of military bases of the Russian Federation Armed Forces on the territories of the member states of the CIS and the Latvian Republic in order to ensure the security of the Russian Federation and the aforementioned states, and also for testing new arms and military equipment.

The Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, jointly with the Russian Ministry of Defense and other interested Russian Federation ministries and departments, are to conduct talks on this question with member states of the CIS and the Latvian Republic, and formulate the agreements reached in appropriate documents.

[Signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin
[Dated] 5 April 1994

No. 174-rp

Foreign Ministry Denies Plans

LD0604203994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1919 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] ITAR-TASS reported Wednesday that "President Boris Yeltsin endorsed the proposal made by the Defense Ministry and cleared with the Foreign Ministry on the setting up of Russian military bases in CIS member states and in Latvia for the purpose of maintaining the security of the Russian Federation and the countries in question and testing for new military hardware." The agency said its source was the president's order to which it had obtained access.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Grigory Karasin told Interfax that to the best of his knowledge his ministry had had nothing to do with the preparation of that document.

Still, he said, the ministry would not be able to respond properly before the document mentioned in the ITAR-TASS report was thoroughly studied.

He placed special emphasis on the fact that "all military issues in the relations with Latvia were settled in the Russian-Latvian agreements that were initialed recently."

Under the agreements on the withdrawal of Russian troops that were initialed in Moscow in mid-March the Russian strategically important radar station in Skrunda will effectively remain "a Russian military establishment under civilian control" for a term of five and a half years and cannot be regarded as a military base.

Officials in the Defense Ministry's Press and Information Department told Interfax that Chief of General Staff Mikhail Kolesnikov had given no interview to ITAR-TASS and "could not talk about the setting up of a Russian military base in Latvia, as reported by that agency."

Phrase on Bases 'Mistake'

LD0604203394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1919 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Well-informed sources in Moscow say that the phrase about the formation of Russian military bases in CIS countries and Latvia was a result of an ambiguous expression that was later included in a Defense Ministry document and then copied to appropriate presidential statements.

"This technical mistake is being corrected", the source in the Kremlin said adding that "there is no hidden political meaning behind it."

Kostikov: No Bases Planned for Latvia

LD0704093094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0854 GMT 7 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow April 7 TASS—Spokesman of the Russian president said on Thursday that Russia plans to build no military bases in Latvia.

"The issue of deploying any Russian bases on the territory of Latvia was not raised and does not exist. The radar station in Skrunda cannot be viewed as a military base. All issues connected with the withdrawal of Russian troops from Latvia have been solved in the Russian-Latvian agreement which has been initialled", Kostikov said in a statement.

On Wednesday a document received by TASS from the presidential administration said President Boris Yeltsin had okayed the proposal of the Defence Ministry to have nearly 30 military bases in CIS countries and Latvia.

Kostikov said "explanations about a technical mistake, as a result of which Latvia was mentioned in the wrong context, will be provided by diplomatic channels".

Kozyrev, Grachev Deny Plans

LD0704122394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1145 GMT 7 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Boris Vlasov and Dmitriy Gorokhov]

[Text] Pskov, 7 Apr—The so-called "decision" on building Russian military bases in CIS states and Latvia came as a complete surprise for the Russian foreign political department, Andrey Kozyrev, head of Russian diplomacy, said here today. Nobody had agreed it with the Foreign Ministry. Andrey Kozyrev arrived in Pskov to meet Swedish Foreign Minister Margaretha af Ugglas, who is in Russia on a working visit.

According to the head of the Russian Foreign Ministry, the above document had caused a similar astonishment in the Defense Ministry, as well. "We do not need any bases in Latvia," he said quoting Pavel Grachev, defense minister, with whom he had spoken this morning. "There is an installation in Skrunda but it is not a military base, but a radio relay station for space monitoring."

Kozyrev: Rumor Designed To Split Government

LD0704120294 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Representatives of the president and Defense Ministry have stated that the creation of Russian military bases on Latvian territory is not planned. As for the instruction of the Russian head of state, according to the explanations, a technical error crept into its text.

We remind you that this error provoked a loud reaction in Riga. Latvian officials have accused Moscow of imperial ambitions.

Meanwhile, according to an Interfax report, Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, who came to Pskov today, has stated that the circumstances of the appearance of the said instruction of the president were strongly reminiscent of the so-called version No. 1.

Kozyrev gives the assurance that neither he nor Defense Minister Grachev know from whence the instruction was taken or who agreed it with whom.

In the foreign minister's opinion, it is an attempt to set the president, government, Foreign Ministry, and Defense Ministry at loggerheads.

Zotov: No Question of Bases in Latvia

LD0704092694 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] As already reported, another diplomatic misunderstanding has arisen between Latvia and Russia in connection with the ITAR-TASS report of Russia's alleged desire to set up military bases in adjacent states including the Baltics. It turns out that the Russian Foreign Ministry has nothing in the least to do with this report. We contacted by telephone special envoy Sergey Sergeyevich Zotov, head of the state delegation at the talks with Latvia. This is what he said.

[Begin Zotov recording] At the state talks, the Russian side has never posed the question of keeping military bases in Latvia and we are not planning to pose such a question. The state delegation is working exclusively under the mandate of the president of the Russian Federation, and in keeping with this mandate we have finished the practical discussion of the whole set of questions connected with the withdrawal of troops.

Among the drafted and already initialed documents there is an agreement which concerns the legal status of the Russian radar station in Skrunda. But I want to stress that our radar station in this state agreement, which has already been approved by our country's president, is regarded as a military institution under civilian control. There can be no question of any bases.

Questions with Latvia in this regard have been fully settled between us and are determined by the texts of interstate treaties and agreements which have been drafted and are incidentally ready for signing at the highest level. [end recording]

[Announcer] To the question as to why absurd sensations of this kind appear in the press from time to time, the special envoy answered that this is due to bad, illiterate work by individual officials of the state apparatus, and it is their incompetence that leads to such misunderstandings in interstate relations.

Troop Pullout Talks With Latvia Stalled

LD0604164594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1605 GMT 6 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Vladimir Taranov and Andrey Urban]

[Text] Moscow, 6 Apr—"At the Russian-Estonian talks the work of the delegations of the two sides has stalled." This appraisal of the 18th round of the talks was given by Vasiliy Svirin, Russian Federation ambassador-at-large, who heads the Russian delegation.

"Numerous draft agreements and treaties are 'wandering' from one round of talks to another," he explained. "This means that a basis of relations, in the legal form of a treaty, between our states remains in embryo."

Vasiliy Svirin said the only positive outcome of the round in Moscow was the Estonian delegation's consent to resume discussion of the draft treaty on questions of citizenship. He said that Russia is hoping that the discussion of this document at subsequent rounds of the talks would be more dynamic.

The 18th round of Russian-Estonian talks was significant in that the Russian side extracted from the draft treaty on the withdrawal of troops from the republic's territory the date for the final withdrawal of the contingent of troops—31 August, without giving new timetables. This was stated today at a briefing at the Russian Foreign Ministry by Vaino Reinart, ambassador-at-large, head of the Estonian delegation at the talks.

"We cannot allow the final date for the withdrawal of troops to be linked with the signing of an agreement on social guarantees for pensioners from among the former Russian servicemen," the head of the Estonian delegation said. He stressed that during the course of the 18th round of talks Russia took a tougher line regarding its demands on the position of the Russian "military pensioners" in Estonia. These demands, he believes, were put in the form of an ultimatum and there was virtually no businesslike discussion to seek compromises.

Draft Agreement With Latvia Approved

LD0704135194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1316 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow April 7 TASS—The Russian Government has approved a draft agreement between the Russian and Latvian Governments on the social security of officers of the Russian Armed Forces, the Russian frontier guard troops and their families, staying temporarily on the territory of the Latvian Republic, until their complete withdrawal. The draft agreement was submitted by the Russian Foreign Ministry after being coordinated with the Russian Defence Ministry, the Federal frontier guard service and other ministries and institutions concerned, and was analysed in a preliminary way jointly with the Latvian side.

The Russian Foreign Ministry was assigned to sign the draft agreement on behalf of the Russian Government at the talks with Latvia after the two sides reach accord, and was allowed to make changes and amendments in it, which are not of principled importance.

Further on Russian-Estonian Troop Withdrawal Talks

LD0604171994 Moscow NTV in Russian 1500 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Video report by correspondent Aleksandr Khabarov; including recorded comments by Vasiliy Svirin, Russian envoy to the Russian-Estonian talks]

[Text] Today's round of talks between Russia and Estonia almost ended in a diplomatic squabble. Vasiliy Svirin, the head of the Russian delegation, maintains that the Estonian diplomats:

[Svirin] ...tried to accuse the Russian delegation of artificially seeking some kind of reasons that would allow Russia not to withdraw its troops from Estonia. The invention and groundlessness of such conclusions, I am convinced, are well-known.

[Khabarov] Russia really is refusing to give Estonia a detailed schedule for the withdrawal of its troops, but only because the Estonian side is not prepared to simultaneously sign an agreement on the social security of military pensioners remaining in Estonia. The talks are also barely making progress on other issues as well.

[Svirin] Today we were unable to initial a single document.

[Khabarov] The Estonian delegation was once again asked to begin discussions on the land border with Russia. If this does not happen Moscow intends to unilaterally reinforce its borders. Russian Foreign Ministry representatives would like to hear a reply to this warning at the next, 19th round of talks.

According to preliminary information the next meeting between Russian and Estonian diplomats will take place at the beginning of May in Tallinn. So, if this round of talks has finished like the majority of the others in failure, then the Russian diplomats can be sure of one thing at least—that rooms have already been booked for them in a Tallinn hotel.

Kozyrev To Sign NATO Document in Brussels 21 Apr

LD0604155194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1411 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] On April 21 in Brussels, head of the Russian Foreign Ministry Andrey Kozyrev will not only sign the basic document on Russia's joining NATO's Partnership for Peace program but will submit the so called presentation document. Russia will present its point of view regarding cooperation and partnership with NATO and will point out concrete directions of this cooperation, Director of RF [Russian Federation] Foreign Ministry's European Cooperation Department Yuriy Ushakov declared in his interview with Interfax on Wednesday.

Ushakov explained that out of all 14 countries which expressed their willingness to join the Partnership for Peace program only Poland had presented such practical documents. "Other countries have not submitted any presentation documents because they are probably not ready yet," said Ushakov.

In his words, Russia's cooperation with NATO in the frameworks of the Partnership program should be "of a special character." "It should take into consideration Russia's role on the international arena and our military might as a nuclear power," explained Ushakov.

Yeltsin Comments on NATO, Partnership for Peace

LD0604142094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1137 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Russia's partnership with NATO "should be different in its scale and intensity than with other countries," President Yeltsin said in an exclusive interview with INTERFAX. He was asked about terms for Russia's acceptance of the Partnership for Peace program.

In his words, there is a goal "to reach a special agreement with NATO, befitting the place and role of Russia in world and European affairs, its military power and nuclear status."

"In general, we have been acting without haste. We have conducted consultations with CIS states, and now we are approaching the time when we need to sign a framework document," Yeltsin said.

Russia, he continued, "has its own concept of cooperation in Europe. Its central element: CSCE as a priority common regional political forum and the North Atlantic Cooperation Council as the leading mechanism of military and political partnership should coordinate activities of other structures, NATO included."

Asked by INTERFAX's special correspondent Vyacheslav Terekhov, what lessons politicians should learn from that which the people of Russia went through last October, Yeltsin stressed the need "above all to ban violence and extremism and prevent ignoble agitation and disturbances."

He believes that all possible efforts to forestall a tragedy similar to the events in Moscow on October 3-4 "must be for any politician in Russia the supreme goal and a must for both himself and his associates—whatever their convictions may be."

"Elections—that's the way to reach political objectives, Yeltsin remarked. [quotation marks as received] Rebellions, uprisings, etc. Are outlawed as politically immoral. That's the first lesson from the October tragedy." In his opinion, this lesson "is just being learned, and with difficulty at that." As testimony of this, he referred to the preparation of an agreement on civic peace, "which more and more parties and organizations have been willing to join."

"There is yet another lesson from those somber days—the vital need to consolidate the state. No one must be allowed to ruin state buildings, assault TV premises, man armed detachments, etc. The state must safeguard its citizens against all that," Yeltsin said. "Regrettably, extremism then was curbed only at the last moment. And if those efforts had failed—what streams of blood would have flown in Moscow and all over Russia?" Yeltsin remarked.

In his words, there is now the essential minimum, above all the democratically adopted Constitution, to consolidate the state.

As he noted, the Constitution "has put an end to dual power, has offered peaceful and civilized ways to resolve differences and has laid the basis for interaction between all sensible forces in Russia. "Sentiments in favor of searching for agreement are prevalent now, Yeltsin said. I see my task in making such concord a realty."

Asked about his intention to nominate himself for a new presidential term, he described this question as "premature."

On his chief task in the coming two years before presidential elections, Yeltsin said that there was nothing more important than to ensure stable relations "between full-fledged efficient branches of power—executive, legislative, and judicial."

In his words, there is a new climate of interaction evolving with the Federation Council and State Duma alike. "The dialogue is developing, Yeltsin noted. I will do all I can so that this constructive mood will strengthen, so that parliament can complete its entire term, so that the next scheduled elections are precisely that kind of elections and that they take place in the conditions of stability and a higher political culture."

In Yeltsin's view, there is a second task linked to that—to make Russia, "our Federation" more united over these two years. Having admitted that work to coordinate federative relations has at times been painful and tense, Yeltsin noted that "on the whole this process is under control not only centrally but regionally."

"Over these two years we need to advance in earnest within the Commonwealth of Independent States and elsewhere, Yeltsin stressed. I do not want to talk in detail at this stage about our plans, this is a separate big topic. But I think in two years our states will be much closer towards each other.

He called economics as third in his list of priorities. "All of us are now going through a grueling school. If we recall what the last 2-3 years have been, we can say with confidence that we have learned something," he said. Noting that only a tiny part of the experience gained in Russia through the centuries and subsequently destroyed has been returned so far, he stressed nonetheless that "this return is going on in increments." "The next two years will become exceedingly important in this respect, Yeltsin noted. "I hope that in time our economy's multiple ills will begin to disappear to the relief all of us."

Moscow Fails To Gain UN Status for Peacemaking Forces

FM0704103394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Apr 94 First Edition pp 1, 2

[Vladimir Kuznechevskiy report under the "Visit" rubric: "Economic Pragmatism Proves Stronger"]

[Text] The UN secretary general's almost week-long stay in Moscow ended with certain political wishes of the Russian leadership being met, but it did not settle a question which was one of the main ones as far as the hosts were concerned: Butrus-Ghali refused to back Moscow in its endeavor to gain the status of UN peacemaking forces for the Russian Armed Forces on the territory of the former USSR.

About two months ago, the heads of the Russian Federation foreign policy and military departments, who had hitherto more often been competitors and rivals in determining the state's foreign policy priorities, expressed a joint position on an important question, and were also able to sway the president, who is more used to them arguing with each other, to their side. The issue concerned the desire to give the status of UN peacemaking forces to the Russian military units stationed on the territory of the former Union republics of the USSR.

You might think: Why is this celebrated status, which in principle changes nothing, so needed, given the essence of the matter? Even without the approval of the United Nations, Russian troops have defused the bloody strife between Kishinev [Chisinau] and Tiraspol, prevented marauding groups from destroying the population of South Ossetia, are restraining Afghan aggression in Tajikistan, are ready to stop the shooting between Tbilisi and Gudauta, and so on. Especially since both the United Nations and the U.S. Administration are in theory already inclined toward recognizing the greater part of the expanse of the former USSR as a sphere of Russia's vital interests.

Meanwhile, a problem does exist, and indeed a fairly substantial one.

First of all, of course, there are the political dividends. It is one thing to recognize the geographic area around Russia as a sphere of its vital interests de facto, and entirely another to do the same thing de jure. In practical terms, this would mean to actually revive Russia's great power status with all the ensuing consequences (I will not get involved in decoding this thesis now).

Second, there is another reason, a purely economic one. Operations in the former USSR republics cost the Ministry of Defense rather a lot. And the military department's budget is already being cut by the government and the Federal Assembly from one year to the next. Announcing UN status for the Russian peacemaking forces would in many regards remove this problem, as payment for these operations would be subsidized to a significant extent by the UN budget. Thus Pavel Grachev's department has an obvious interest in settling the question.

But the Russian Federation foreign policy department is equally interested in settling this question. During 1994 Russia has run up a debt of $68 million to the basic UN budget. Apart from that, debts for previous years run to 442 million, and there is also the 49 million owed to the budget for peacemaking operations for 1994. In all, according to Butrus-Ghali, Russia's total debt runs to $628 million, which makes it the second largest debtor after the United States.

All the indications are that Andrey Kozyrev's department has assumed that if it proved possible to put into practice the idea of giving Russian peacemaking forces in the former USSR republics the status of UN forces, then part, and indeed a significant part, of the Russian Federation's debt to the United Nations would be paid off in this way.

Judging by everything, Butrus-Ghali is also perfectly well aware of this, and so all he decided to do during the talks in Moscow was to recognize the fact that Moscow may participate in peacemaking operations in the aforementioned regions without special coordination with the United Nations and in parallel with UN actions, and even to link its troops with UN forces in hot spots; but no more than that.

Thus, for the time being, Moscow has failed to improve its financial affairs at the United Nations' expense. It can only be hoped that the last word has nevertheless not yet been said in the discussion on this subject, and that the Russian Foreign Ministry and Ministry of Defense will nevertheless find additional arguments in favor of a solution to the aforementioned problem which may satisfy both sides.

Chernomyrdin Reaffirms Russia To Press for G-7 Entry

LD0604185394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1617 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has reaffirmed his government's intention to press for Russia's incorporation into the Group of Seven (G7) to make it a "Group of Eight."

Russia will raise the matter at the next G7 summit in Naples, Chernomyrdin told a U.S. congress delegation in Moscow on Wednesday, government spokesman Valeriy Grishin said. He said the American delegation, headed by Republican minority leader Richard Gephardt, had expressed support for Russia's plan.

Chernomyrdin also said his government was not putting all its hopes on foreign loans. He said the $1.5-Bn credit the International Monetary Fund had recently agreed to give Russia was mainly a political matter. He said there were those in the United States who sought to restrict

Russia's access to the world market and undermine its role there. What Russia wants is not easy terms but equal partnership in trade, he said.

Grishin said that at the meeting, held behind closed doors, the U.S. delegation had expressed support for the Chernomyrdin government's policy of reform and that Gephardt had promised to make a public appeal to America's business community "not to be afraid to invest in the Russian economy."

Chernomyrdin Meets U.S. Aviation Experts

LD0604153494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1101 GMT 6 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow April 6 TASS—Russian Prime-Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin today met the leaders of the United Technologies Company, U.S. to discuss aspects of a series production of the Russian wide-body airliner IL-96M with American Pratt & Whitney engines.

The discussion centered around the organisation of joint Russian-American enterprise on the basis of AO Permskiye Motoriy (Perm Engines Joint-Stock Company) for the mass production of an aviation engine. The new engine, based on the Russian PS-90 will be installed on the IL-96M liners capable of carrying 380 passengers and on other new Russian aircraft.

The Russian-American engine will be built using the best technologies designed in the two countries. Ten IL-96M airliners equipped with jointly produced engines have already been ordered by 10 foreign and 30 Russian airlines. The new engines are expected to be considerably cheaper and technologically more advanced than the Pratt & Whitney engines.

Joint Exercise Seen as Protection of 'U.S. Ownership'

PM0604142194 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 Apr 94 p 1

[Undated letter from Candidate of Historical Sciences Ivan Bondarev, followed by editorial office note, under the "Reader's Response" rubric: "Is It Not Worth Our Generals' While Holding Exercises in the State of Iowa?"]

[Excerpts] In the 20th century the United States has repeatedly tried to get a foothold on Russian territory. [passage omitted]

Why recall the past?, you may ask. Whoever recalls the past.... Unfortunately, there are grounds for reminders. The mass media are reporting on preparations for military exercises in Orenburg Oblast for Russian troops with U.S. troops participating. The preparations are in full swing. Brigadier General Leonard Holder Jr., commander of the U.S. 3d Infantry Division, has already visited Orenburg in the role of quartermaster. Russian and U.S. Defense Ministers P. Grachev and W. Perry have met in Moscow. It is not hard to guess what was discussed.

Specialists are arguing over how many U.S. military personnel are coming to Russia and what hardware they are bringing with them. Meanwhile it is quite clear that the generals will be accompanied by an army of advisers, umpires, interpreters, and support personnel.

First, there are many facilities in the South Urals and Volga Valley region where the gaze of outsiders is undesirable. "Friendship is friendship, but it's every man for himself when it comes to tobacco," according to the Russian proverb. Furthermore, the Americans make no secret of the fact that their foreign intelligence service is operating even in their allies' states.

Second, Russians have to receive and accommodate the U.S. generals with their vast retinue. Meanwhile we are experiencing a shortage of everything. It is said that the Americans will pay for everything. This is suspicious. They are so keen to get into Russia that they are not counting the cost.

It has been announced that the purpose of the exercises is to rehearse collaboration between the two states' armies in the event of an attack by a third force. But who is threatening us? Where is this third force which the Russian Army would not be able to oppose independently? There is something else at work here.

Representatives of Russia's military department are hurrying. It is is not understood exactly why: Whether they are afraid to be late in joining the world community's "Partnership for Peace" or whether they cannot count on winning in the event of another storming of the White House. The Pentagon's generals are also hurrying. The interest is mutual. Which is why it would have been advisable to hold the joint exercises in the United States, where society is more stable and where there is a better supply of food and petroleum oils and lubricants. But as far as is known the question of holding the exercises on U.S. territory has not been raised or discussed by anybody. Is this an accident? I think not.

At one time the United States supplied Russia with canned stewed meat and corn seeds and gave advice on how to develop Russia, credits, and aid. Of course, it gave all this not for nothing but on an interest basis, and bought up shares in the most profitable sectors of the economy. In short, U.S. ownership started to appear on Russian territory. The problem of protecting this ownership arose. The Americans' desire to stick their bayonets into and raise their flag in the most vulnerable area of vast Russia cannot be explained any other way.

[Signed] Candidate of Historical Sciences Ivan Bondarev

Moscow Oblast, Ramenskiy Rayon, RAOS [expansion unknown] Settlement

The article by Major General (Retired) V. Chudov entitled "Our Strategists Are Too Unsophisticated"

(PRAVDA, 16 March 1994) provoked an avalanche of letters to the editorial office. The general impression is that the decision on joint Russian-U.S. command and staff exercises is hasty and ill-considered and dangerous for Russia's future.

Maj. Gen. Chudov's viewpoint is shared by the author of the published letter, as well as by readers I. Batsik, P. Borisov, V. Goryachev, A. Babenko, S. Kuznetsov, and others.

U.S. 'New Approach' to Relations Viewed

PM0604114594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Mar 94 p 4

[Stanislav Kondrashov article: "United States' 'New Approach' to Russia in Light of Ukrainian Elections"]

[Text] Next year over one-half of all U.S. aid earmarked for the "heirs" of the USSR will be going not to Russia as it is now, but to other members of the CIS. Although this is economic aid, this shift is dictated by politics, the rudiments of a different U.S. strategy that has not as yet been formulated clearly enough.

The "new approach" to Russia that has been developing since last December concerns both the situation within Russia and its behavior in the "post-Soviet area." The aspirations nurtured by some of the U.S. establishment to act as trailblazers en route to the market economy of the future have virtually vanished into thin air, and U.S. aid—if you compare it to the extent of the crisis in Russia and the tasks that lie ahead—is paltry. But Washington remains Moscow's main strategic interlocutor outside the CIS, and the "new approach" needs scrutiny especially since, even in the early stages, it appears to be flawed due to inadequate understanding of the situation whereby trends toward integration are confused with imperialism. If this confusion is not avoided in time, the "new approach" will have to be adjusted like the old one.

So, within Russia the Clinton administration has distanced itself from Gaydar's radical-democrat school, ceased to associate the future of economic reform and Russian democracy with him and him alone, and to all intents and purposes acknowledged Premier Chernomyrdin as a reformer and leading contender for the post of president. While maintaining all the necessary relations with the Russian head of state, it is stealthily performing the delicate task of ensuring continuity of the new-type U.S.-Russian relations in the post-Yeltsin era. There is every indication that people in Washington are growing accustomed to the idea that this time is not far off.

Another aspect of the "new approach" concerns the U.S. attitude to the nearby foreign countries. Here too, relatively speaking, they have stopped putting all their eggs in the Yeltsin basket. The "counterbalance" of U.S. economic aid is the response to the stepping up and tightening of Russia's policy in neighboring countries—the former Soviet republics. This is eliciting more and more questions and growing misgivings in the United States. That which all politicians in Moscow across the board, including the foreign minister, call Russia's legitimate "special interests," is generally qualified by people in Washington as recurrences of "imperial ambitions." People there would like to warn Russia by paying additional signs of attention to those post-Soviet states which are the targets of "imperial ambitions." This too is an extremely tricky diplomatic task—these signs must be noticeable otherwise they become pointless, but not provocatively noticeable so as not to further rouse Moscow "imperialists."

Mindful of this, official Washington received the leaders of Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Georgia in February and March. Likewise, Clinton gave Shevardnadze the go-ahead for the idea of deploying UN peacekeeping forces in Abkhazia...on condition that an agreement is concluded between the Georgians and the Abkhazians and that U.S. servicemen are categorically excluded from these forces. William Perry, the new U.S. secretary of defense, carried out a tour under the slogan of a new "pragmatic partnership," starting in Moscow and then visiting Alma-Ata [Almaty], Kiev, and Minsk, announcing an increase in U.S. aid, primarily for nuclear disarmament.

Despite the cautious nature of the "new approach," one initially glimpses a failure to understand certain fundamental and seemingly obvious things. That is to some extent excusable since it was inspired by the Russian side.

People are talking, for instance, about the end of the "honeymoon" between Russia and the United States. But was there one at all? If you think about it, there was not a "marriage" with the United States but a "divorce" between Russia and the USSR, the Russian leadership and the Union leadership, and the "divorce" went hand in hand with a "romance" with the United States since Yeltsin and the democrats used the West's political backing against Gorbachev and against preserving the "imperial" union.

The "honeymoon" lasted as long as the amnesia over our own national interests. It is not the "honeymoon" that is now over, but the amnesia. In fact, it is impossible to divorce ourselves from the fundamental geopolitical realities of Russian existence in Eurasia and in this regard Russia is bound to inherit some of the interests of the Soviet superpower and the Russian empire especially since the main material justification for Russia's great power status—nuclear weapons—was also the legacy of the Soviet Union.

Tens of millions of people have been plunged into a new historical era and they are behaving not quite or not at all as the politicians who did the plunging would like. The people formulating the "new approach," leaving aside this basic fact, should look at the democracy of the ballot box, which now seems different from that of the speeches made by politicians elected previously.

The latest example being the Ukrainian elections, where inhabitants of eastern oblasts and the Crimea voted by an overwhelming majority in favor of union with Russia. So are they voicing solidarity with Moscow's "imperial ambitions"? Who else but Washington should realize that general democratic elections are the main act and irrevocable verdict of democracy (until the next elections take place). Unlike presidents, ordinary people speak rarely but, when they do, what they say is to the point and weighty, based not on speculative concepts but on their own future.

However, the CIA guessed this result, predicting in a recent secret report the possibility of Ukraine breaking into two states over the dispute between the western part geared to the West and the eastern oblasts with their leaning toward Russia. And it did not ascribe this to Moscow's machinations.

Needless to say, it would be the height of folly for Moscow to promote the worsening of the intra-Ukrainian confrontation but surely Kiev's politicians are primarily responsible for finding a peaceful and constructive solution to the situation through Ukrainian federalism, say, and closer links with Russia?

In a recent programmatic article in the FOREIGN AFFAIRS journal, Zbigniew Brzezinski declared that a U.S.-Russian partnership would be premature and suggested an alternative policy of "geopolitical pluralism," which means curbing Russia's imperial instincts by developing relations with the "new independent states." Brzezinski came up with a "simple but indisputable axiom: Russia can either be an empire or a democracy but it cannot be both." That is an example of the rigid rule that is easily construed by an outsider. The well-known conceptualist even sees Russia's confederative relations with Ukraine as a roundabout victory for Russian "imperialism." But the sentiments voiced during the elections in eastern Ukraine and the Crimea illustrate that democracy Brzezinski-style is a procrustean bed for millions of people even if they opted to lie on it by voting in favor of Ukrainian independence in the 1991 referendum by a majority.

Former President Richard Nixon is more of a pragmatist than a conceptualist and is not that keen on rules. During his recent 10th visit to Moscow he found the claims that Russia is once again becoming an "imperialist power" "exaggerated." In Nixon's opinion most Russians and their leaders are opposed to "fresh adventures" and are unwilling to even "take economic responsibility for the other new independent states."

At the same time he warned that any attempts by Moscow to "destabilize" Ukraine will have "destructive consequences for Russian-U.S. relations" since "Ukrainian stability is in the U.S. strategic interests."

Indisputably such attempts would also be ruinous for Russian stability, placing an intolerable burden on its already extremely frail shoulders. But here too it is no good failing to take life's complexities into consideration. Are the Ukrainian elections part of Moscow's attempts to destabilize Ukraine? Will the Kiev leadership's disregard for the results of these elections, which revealed mass resistance to severing the close economic, cultural, and human ties with Russia, be in the interests of Ukrainian stability? This notwithstanding, can U.S. "strategic interest" in Ukraine be ensured?

I think that Nazarbayev, if not Kravchuk, has already answered these questions—as regards Kazakhstan. He used his stay in Moscow to proclaim his vision of the future from the Moscow State University rostrum—a Eurasian union throughout the post-Soviet area apart from the Baltic countries (or at least covering Russia and Kazakhstan) with a common parliament, single citizenship, joint armed forces, and close economic coordination. In the different Soviet conditions the idea of a Eurasian union was advocated by Andrey Sakharov, if you recall, as an idea for the democratic transformation of the totalitarian superstate. It is now being revived amid the chaos, ashes, and disorder of devastation.

As a politician who is better aware of our common realities than the Americans, Nazarbayev does not absolutize the concept of independence. Reasonable interdependence can be a guarantee of reasonable, democratically sufficient independence and stability. Nazarbayev the dialectician opposes dual citizenship but is in favor of single, common citizenship. He is in favor of U.S. cooperation in the running of Baykonur in order to haggle over leasing the cosmodrome...with Russia.

But by the strictest criteria the Kazakhstani president needs good relations with the power on the other continent in order to regulate and strengthen good relations with his immediate great neighbor with the common destiny and to force this neighbor to get a move on. And this is no paradox but the call of geopolitics.

On the other hand, if stability, above all nuclear stability (what else?) is primarily the U.S. strategic priority in the post-Soviet area the "new approach" should have its supertask. The avowed counterbalance of aid for Russia's neighbors ("over one-half") is politically justified if it helps find a reasonable measure and link between independence and interdependence and places confederative (or federative!) relations between the former republics, with Russia, and with the center (not the imperial center!) in the form of Russia on a new voluntary footing. Only then can lasting partnership relations between Russia and the United States have a future.

U.S.-Russian Trade Declines in 1993

PM0704104994 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 Apr 94 p 6

[Report from roundup of news agency reports]

[Text] The volume of U.S.-Russian trade in 1993 was $1.2 billion, which is $395 million less than in 1992. U.S. exports to Russia were 74.5 percent of exports to other CIS countries. Russia has become the United States' 28th-ranking trade partner in terms of U.S. imports. The volume of U.S. investments in the Russian economy as of September 1993 was assessed at nearly $500 million.

Moscow Not To Play Special Role in Tajik Talks

LD0604180294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1416 GMT 6 Apr 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: Reports by diplomatic correspondents Dmitriy Voskoboinikov, Igor Porshnev, Vitaly Trubetskoy, and others]

[Text] Moscow does not want to play any "special role" in the talks between the Dushanbe Government and the opposition. The talks will proceed by the two plus one formula, where two are the Tajik factions and one is the U.S. under whose auspices the talks are held.

According to a senior Russian Foreign Ministry official, Russian diplomats will not be present at the talks unless UN representatives want them to. "They attend the Wednesday session because (Ramiro Perez)-Bollon, UN Secretary General's special envoy, invited them. But as early as Thursday the talks may continue without them," the diplomat said.

He said that Russia had probably played the decisive role at the stage of setting the scene for the talks. "This does not imply, however, that our role will be as important as that at subsequent stages. We in Moscow believe that all the observers, Russia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran, have equal rights. We do not intend to impose our views. Our goal is peace in Tajikistan and around it."

The diplomat could not say how long the Moscow round of talk will take. "No timetable for the talks has been set but we hope that the two sides will achieve significant results in Moscow. They seem to be in the right mood for that," he said.

The diplomat explained that a comprehensive solution was not on the Moscow agenda. "What is important is that the two sides have sat for a talk. If they could agree on ending the hostilities, the Moscow round would be regarded as a success," he noted.

According to the diplomat, "the dialog that has started is a positive event for the sole reason that it will show who really wants a national reconciliation in Tajikistan. It will be an acid test which cannot be cheated.

Ukraine Defense Minister Crimea Visit 'Disinformation'

PM0604153194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 Apr 94 p 1

[Report by Teymuraz Mamaladze: "Dangerous Fishing in Black Sea of Disinformation Threatens to Aggravate Russian-Ukrainian Relations"]

[Text] "Muscle-flexing" is what the mythical observers from the ITAR-TASS correspondent's report called the flight to Crimea by the Ukrainian defense minister. Variations on the theme of "Radetskyy's march" were crowned with a mighty chord—the suggestion that the ground was being sounded out "for the introduction in Crimea of a special form of rule whereby the Crimean president would be subordinate to a representative of the Ukrainian president."

Of itself the report is such that it could cause the utmost tension not only of sinews but also of all other muscles, including the heart: There would be no worse news today for the CIS, Europe, and the rest of the world than the specter of mounting military confrontation between Russia and Ukraine. Reports from Nikolay Semena, our correspondent in Crimea, and from the journalists of other mass media and explanations from official Kiev allow us to relax a little: The Ukrainian defense minister has not visited Crimea and a group of high-ranking military officials from that independent state visited the peninsula under the plan for inspection visits. Nonetheless, we cannot relax completely.

Armed conflicts are always preceded and then constantly attended by a "war of words." But while on the battle fields absolutely standard firearms and heavy weaponry are used, on the news agency tapes, in the newspapers, and on television and radio weapons of mass destruction are often fired and blown up—weapons known in journalists' jargon as "black propaganda" [chernukha]. And the blacker it is the more perfect in the eyes of its designers and purveyors and the broader its range.

Disinformation as a means of pushing public opinion toward approving necessary political decisions and supporting "certain steps in a particular direction," and psychological warfare as a selection of tools to destabilize and upset interstate relations is the subject of a separate conversation. For the time being I should like to say the following: All my personal experience of work in trouble spots, be it in Abkhazia or South Ossetia, attests that disinforming "black propaganda" feeds conflicts more powerfully than irresponsible statements, actions, and steps by some statesmen and politicians. It kills people more surely than an AKM-47 or RPG grenade throwers and it kills them in the literal sense—I do not have the space now to cite the examples and names I know. I have frequently held in my hands a radio intercept of talks between some "source" and some reporter in which the former has given an account of, for instance, "atrocities committed by the Georgians" and the latter has shyly wondered whom he should quote. "I shall tell you later," the "source" has reassured him.

I don't want it later, I would like it now. But since that is not entirely possible let us restrict ourselves to general considerations: Attempts to turn the bluest sea in the world and indeed other not entirely happy regions and spheres into a black sea of disinformation are fraught with danger....

It remains to ascertain how eagerly public opinion will demand similar attempts to aggravate Russian-Ukrainian and not just Russian-Ukrainian relations (see the list of CIS countries). Specific sociological research methods would be a good thing here but for the time being my personal feeling is enough: They would not be particularly eager to make this demand.

Plant's Finances May Affect Ukraine Nuclear Disarmament

LD0704053694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0525 GMT 7 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Elmakov]

[Text] Novosibirsk April 7 TASS—The chemical plant in Novosibirsk is facing a tough financial situation which can affect the implementation of the Ukrainian nuclear disarmament programme.

The plant is the only enterprise in Russia which produces fuel for water-moderated water-cooled reactors which is to be shipped to Ukraine in exchange for its nuclear warheads.

The first batch of fuel assemblies was shipped to Ukraine in the end of March, deputy director general of the plant Vladimir Rozhkov told TASS on Thursday.

The Finance Ministry had to pay for the fuel nearly 30 billion roubles, but the enterprise had received no money so far and cannot buy a number of accessories necessary for the production of nuclear fuel assemblies.

Experts of the enterprise warned that reserves will last only for one month. If production stops many Russian nuclear power plants will remain without fuel as well.

"A disruption of nuclear fuel shipments to Ukraine is not ruled out because the state, which is acting as a contractor, does not fulfil its commitments in time", Rozhkov said.

Tension Between Crimean, Ukrainian Authorities Viewed

LD0704131194 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 7 Apr 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] It appears that the battle between the authorities of Ukraine and Crimea has worsened. Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov says the situation that has taken shape on the peninsula is due to provocations by the powers that be in Ukraine.

[Correspondent Vladimir Plotnikov] Kravchuk's decree appointing a representative of the Ukrainian president in Crimea has aroused particular opposition. The leadership of Crimea's republican movement, Russian Society, [Russkoye Obshchestvo] today called on citizens to rally in support of the Crimean president.

[Begin Crimean President Meshkov recording] [Words indistinct] that Ukraine's current leadership is the most dangerous, from the point of view of maintaining peace and calm in Europe. This leadership has relied on, and unfortunately continues to rely on, extreme nationalist forces in Ukraine and can only act within a framework designed by the nationalists. [end recording]

[Plotnikov] It may be by chance, but the war of decrees broke out on the eve of the second round of elections to the Ukrainian and Crimean parliaments. It might be expected that this war will help consolidate Meshkov's supporters. Even the autonomous republic's Supreme Soviet, with its current composition and history of total subservience to Kiev, has spoken against the appointment of a representative for Kravchuk in Crimea. [Video shows Meshkov talking to journalists and a rally in Crimea]

Ukraine's Collapse Seen Dangerous to Country

MK0604112094 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No. 14, 3-10 Apr 94 (Signed to press 5 Apr) p 5A

[Article by Sergey Karaganov, doctor of history: "Ukraine as an Apple of Discord"]

[Text] It is generally said that election results clarify a new lineup of forces, pinpoint a new development vector, and so forth. I suppose that the results of elections in Ukraine will decide or clarify very little. Everything is clear as it is.

Ukraine is in a state of half-decay. The information space has been disrupted; industry is grinding to a halt; transportation links are being scaled down: Fuel is too expensive. Living standards are falling rapidly. Disintegration has also begun to affect the armed forces. The provinces are moving to a subsistence mode, isolating themselves from Kiev politically. It would be little exaggeration to say that Ukraine is held together only by the wish of the majority of regional elites to preserve the attributes of statehood and also by Russian natural gas supplies and Ostankino TV programs....

We are observing many of these processes also in Russia. There are two substantial differences, however. First, in Ukraine the situation is exponentially worse. Second, and this is the main thing, in Russia reform is under way and there are forces ready to continue it. The question is only about the pace and methods. In Ukraine, on the other hand, reforms have practically never begun in the first place. Moreover, there are no visible forces there yet capable of going through with them in earnest.

I do not agree with the controversial memorandum by the U.S. intelligence service or with those in Russia who predict social chaos and collapse for Ukraine in the very near future. The Ukrainians are just as patient and maybe even more kind-hearted than their Russian brothers. Even so—let me repeat—I do not think that these qualities will last us or them for more than one and a half to two years.

Neither do I share the malice of some of the Russian politicians who are gleefully rubbing their hands and waiting for Ukraine to come crawling on its knees. Such malice is amoral: The Ukrainians are our brothers, in trouble. Malice is out of place also because the social and political disintegration of Ukraine is a most serious threat to the security of Russia and the people of Russia. The imminent migration problem will aggravate, exacerbating unemployment, and the increasing drug flow will grow even more. It is terrible to think about the consequences of a loss of control over nuclear power stations, nuclear weapons, and chemical production facilities.

It is almost inevitable that Russia will have to start pumping colossal resources into Ukraine like into a bottomless pit. In this connection I would like to ask the advocates of rapid unification: Do they understand that this will lead to a sharp fall in living standards in Russia itself? Let these well-fed politicians, speaking on behalf of the Russian people, ask the Russians themselves: Do they want to donate half of their earnings to unification? Especially in view of the fact that the price of full unification even with parts of Ukraine can be a social upheaval and collapse of Russia.

There is yet another danger: An anti-Russian mood is growing in the West. There are not a few reasons for that: irritation with our state of disarray and a wish to safeguard against it, the fear of a revived Russian expansionism, and so forth.

If under these conditions Ukraine begins to fall apart, and Russia will almost inevitably have to intervene in this process, there will be cause for a new round of "cold war." Whereas the first "cold war" was a tragedy, the second—in the early eighties—had elements of a tragicomedy; the third, in all likelihood, will be a farce: After all, there is no more ideological confrontation, and almost no contradiction between the fundamental interests of Russia and the West. Nonetheless, it is clear that Russia, with its present weakness, will have to pay a high price for it.

Is there a chance to avoid the worst-case scenario? I do not know. It would be best if Russia and the West by joint political efforts forced the Ukrainian leadership to undertake reform in exchange for economic aid. Russia would obviously gain from Ukraine's economic openness, and the West from its political independence. Even if the West does not furnish mass assistance, one should insist on a dialogue with it on Ukraine's problems: at least to minimize possible damage.

Yet there is also another option: to prevent the disintegration of Ukraine by demanding the removal of barriers and participation in privatization programs and at the same time promoting direct links with regions and cities. It is beneficial politically: We establish ties with actual people and actual interests. It is also beneficial economically: Ukrainian goods are relatively cheap. It is beneficial from the human point of view: We can help Ukraine survive in these difficult years. Moreover, one could hope that people articulating the real interests of Ukraine and the Ukrainians will be coming to power in Kiev and at the local level. And they, these interests, consist in ensuring the closest possible union with Russia.

The abyss into which Ukraine's leadership has plunged it will never make it what Russia's foes hoped it would—its strategic counterbalance. The very best on which the advocates of Ukrainian statehood can count is to preserve an independent but in actual fact economically semidependent state. This is not the worst possible option for Russia either. With such a pattern of relations with Ukraine as well as with other CIS states, we can emerge from the status of a milk cow into a state relieved of the burdens of empire, but retaining many of the benefits of its former geostrategic and geo-economic, so to speak, position.

To achieve this (or any other desirable result), however, a vigorous, concentrated policy is needed. Which, in my opinion, does not exist.

No Information on DPRK Mistreating Russian Diplomats

LD0604161694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1416 GMT 6 Apr 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: Reports by Diplomatic Correspondents Dmitriy Voskoboynikov, Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy and others]

[Text] Russian Foreign Ministry has no information concerning facts of mistreatment with respect to Russian diplomats in Pyongyang on the part of the authorities of the Korean People's Democratic Republic. A high-ranking Russian diplomat made these comments in his interview with Interfax regarding the rumors about attacks against employees of the Russian Embassy in Pyongyang due to the recent arrest of three North-Korean diplomats in Moscow.

According to the Federal Counterintelligence Service Director Sergey Stepashin, the diplomats were caught red-handed trying to buy advanced Russian technologies.

Interfax interlocutor underlined that Moscow would demonstrate adequate reaction in case of "unfriendly actions" with respect to Russian diplomats in the DPRK.

At the same time he believes that first of all it is necessary to investigate the incident with the employees of the Korean Embassy. "Given the fact that a tense situation has established on the Korean peninsular and Russia is participating in its settlement, nobody needs any espionage scandal," said the Russian diplomat.

ROK Not To Grant Asylum to North Koreans Fleeing Russia

LD0604172994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1506 GMT 6 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Zakharchenko]

[Text] Seoul April 6 TASS—The South Korean Government does not intend to grant a political asylum to former North Korean workers who fled timber-felling sites in Russia, President Kim Yong-sam said at today's meeting with Korean industrialists devoted to the results of his recent trip to Tokyo and Beijing.

An official of the South Korean presidential staff quoted the president as saying some 90 timber cutters from North Korea had applied recently to the South Korean embassy in Moscow and the country's consulate in Vladivostok, asking for a political asylum. "However, these requests will not be met in order not to irritate North Korea", the official said. According to him, Kim Yong-sam also stressed that "the government's stand on this matter has not changed" and the possibility of North Korean workers' resettlement to South Korea is not being considered.

According to information of the South Korean Government, about 16,000 North Koreans are presently working at timber-felling sites in Russia's Khabarovsk territory. They are attracted by relatively high wages, as compared with those in North Korea. Some 170 North Korean workers have fled Siberian labour camps with a view to avoid returning to their native land. At the moment, they have to knock about Russia without even any passports. Some of them managed to illegally cross the border into China, where a lot of ethnic Koreans live at present.

Poltoranin Calls For Reformist 'Political Group'

OW0204104494 Tokyo KYODO in English 0952 GMT 2 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 2 KYODO—A senior aide to Russian President Boris Yeltsin said Saturday [2 April] Russian reformist politicians will band to create a new political group intent on reinvigorating moves toward democracy.

Mikhail Poltoranin, chairman of the Intelligence Policy Committee of the State Duma, said in an interview with Kyodo News Service in Tokyo that the new group will help prevent Russian democratic forces from being splintered.

The State Duma is the 450-member lower house of the Russian parliament.

The group will consist of Poltoranin, former Deputy Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar, former State Secretary Gennadiy Burbulis and other reformist politicians, he said.

The establishment of the new group will be pushed to help accomplish Yeltsin's recent proposal to have the Russian parliament adopt a declaration committing all political forces to seek to achieve national reconciliation, he said.

Poltoranin said he is convinced that Yeltsin will agree to join the new group, saying the president is aware that he has drawn his political strength chiefly from reformist politicians.

"The president is aware that his support base comes from reformists and he would end up losing his power if he lost their support," he said.

Poltoranin dismissed as false propaganda the rumors that the health of Yeltsin has deteriorated to a level so bad as to make it difficult for him to engage in his presidential duties.

Duma Missions Give Accounts of Yugoslav Trips

MK0704095094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 7 Apr 94 p 2

[Aleksey Kirpichnikov report under the "Foreign Policy" rubric: "Two Press Conferences on One Problem. Two Diametrically Opposed Views Expressed on Yugoslavia"]

[Text] Two press conference have been held at the State Duma on the same day by deputies who spoke about their trips to the former Yugoslavia. The first group was headed by an official, Aleksandr Vengerovskiy, deputy of State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin and Liberal Democratic Party Chairman Zhirinovskiy. He was accompanied by Vitaliy Sevostyanov, a communist; Lyubov Rozhkova, from the New Regional Policy faction; and Yevgeniy Fedorov, an independent. The second group was made up of Viktor Sheynis, "Yabloko," and Mark Feygin, "Russia's Choice," who traveled there at the invitation of the Serb-Russian Friendship Society.

Speeches at the press conferences have demonstrated an expected, but still paradoxical result: the official group was characterized by extreme radicalism, while the private one was extremely moderate. Both groups outlined a similar range of problems facing the present-day Balkans, but offered diametrically opposed assessments of the problems and methods to resolve them.

In the view of Mr. Vengerovskiy's "team," the situation in the republics of the former Yugoslavia could not be worse, while Mr. Sheynis and "Yabloko" believe that "the tide is turning, although it is weak and fragile." The deputy speaker thinks that the Yugoslav conflict was provoked by outside forces, while his opponent thinks that internal ones are to blame. The State Duma's official representatives entitled their statement "On the Situation in the Serb Republics," while the unofficial ones emphasized that there are no such subjects of international law. The former denounced the Russian Foreign Ministry for conniving at the UN actions, while the latter praised the Foreign Ministry for its recent constructive steps.

Speaking about the Serbs' hopes for Russian support, the first group focused its attention on the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia and military assistance provided in the form of "Russian volunteers" as opposed to "Muslim and Croat mercenaries;" the second group pointed to Russian democrats who could support Serbia's peace-loving forces.

The officials offered two exotic drafts: the resettlement of 140,000-200,000 Russians—"refugees, officers, and warrant officers"—to the Adriatic coast and the deployment of the Russian Navy in locations where Croat aggression seems most probable. The other group was stingy with drafts.

Both groups favored the lifting of sanctions against Yugoslavia, but by different methods. Mr. Vengerovskiy proposed that they be lifted immediately, that the Serb republics be recognized, and that "UN bribe takers," who profit by smuggling illicit goods, be spurned. Mr. Sheynis pointed out that a lack of joint borders between Yugoslavia and Russia makes it impossible to lift the embargo unilaterally, that bypassing the United Nations would be irresponsible and counterproductive, but that one has to fight for the official lifting of the sanctions imposed because the Serbs rejected the Vance-Owen plan, which has already been buried by all the conflicting sides.

The two missions had different visions of the State Duma's role, too. The deputy chairman called on the Duma to head the pro-Serb movement in Russia and to revise "legislation that regulates the activity of the Russian Government with regard to the republics of the former Yugoslavia." The "private" Sheynis put forward the modest idea of "influencing public opinion in Russia and abroad" and parliamentary hearings on the Yugoslav question.

The only occasion where Mr. Vengerovskiy sounded softer involved his opponent: In his words, Sheynis professed universal human values. The opposite side's assessment was harsher: In "Yabloko's" opinion, members of the official group were characterized by a preformed stance, incompetence, and the desire to exploit international problems in the domestic struggle.

Transportation, Communication Protocol Signed With Turkey

TA0704102094 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 0910 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Moscow, April 7 (A.A.)—Turkey and Russia on Wednesday signed a protocol during a joint economic commission meeting concerning energy, transportation, communications and other fields.

The signatories of the protocol were Housing and Public Works Minister Onur Kumbaracibasi and Russian Economic Affairs Minister Oleg Davydov.

The protocol foresees improving cooperation in transportation, communication and other fields.

Kumbaracibasi speaking during the signing ceremony said the two sides reviewed the subjects in a positive atmosphere.

Kumbaracibasi said Turkish-Russian relations improve day-by-day and these two sides have the goodwill to overcome the existing problems in economic fields.

Davydov said with the protocol, trade volume between Turkey and Russia will reach 2 billion U.S. dollars.

'Turkey will continue to be our best trade partner,' Davydov said. [passage omitted]

Iraqi, Russian Communist Party Officials Hold Talks

JN0604164594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1520 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow, 6 Apr (INA)—'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, member of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, met here today with Valentin Kuznetsov, first deputy leader of the Russian Communist Party [name and title as received].

During the meeting, 'Abd-al-Ghafur gave a detailed explanation on the stable situation in Iraq as well as the Iraqi people's support for President Saddam Husayn's leadership and their insistence on breaking the economic blockade through patience, jihad, and continued progress and construction. He also pointed to the positive development in Russia's position at the Security Council, and stressed the need for Russia to adopt more effective positions, and for the Russian parties work through the Parliament, the government, and popular bodies to help lift the economic blockade on Iraq and implement Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687.

Kuznetsov reiterated the Russian Communist Party's position, which supports the Iraqi leadership and people. He lauded the Iraqi people's achievements under President Saddam Husayn, and voiced his party's readiness to do further work on the parliamentary and popular levels in order to lift the economic blockade on Iraq.

Political Issues

Yeltsin on October Events, Future Plans, PFP

LD0604165594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1519 GMT 6 Apr 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature no. 66 (556) by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy and edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] Below is the text of President Yeltsin's interview with Interfax news agency.

IF: Six months since last October's tragic events, what do you think are the main lessons that Russian politicians ought to have drawn?

YELTSIN: Going back to those days makes me both bitter and sad. But this has to be done to prevent such tragedy from being repeated. I think that to any Russian politician, this must become a supreme goal and the main demand to himself and his associates regardless of political leanings. What is needed most is an internal ban on violence, extremism, the fuelling of vile emotions and social unrest.

The only way of achieving political goals is through the ballot box. Mutiny or uprising must be outlawed. This is the first lesson to be learnt from the October tragedy. I can now say that it is being learnt by all of us, albeit with difficulty. One indication is the preparation of a civil peace pact with more parties and groups willing to join it by the day.

One other lesson from those dark days is a vital necessity to beef up the state. What happened at the time was largely due to inadmissible connivance at extremism and political promiscuity which must be banished in a healthy state. No one must be allowed to attack government offices or siege a TV center or form armed units. It is the state's duty to protect civilians and ensuring security is its main function. Unfortunately, the government had managed to bring an end to the rioting only in the last stage. If not, what rivers of blood would have flown throughout Moscow and Russia?

We now have a minimum of what it takes to consolidate the state. First of all, this is a new constitution approved in last December's nationwide referendum. The constitution put an end to the long- running power struggle by offering civilized ways of resolving controversial issues, leading the country out of the deadlock of confrontation and laying down the basis for cooperation by all sensible forces of Russia. The mood of searches for consensus now prevails and my task is to turn it into reality.

IF: With next presidential elections about two years away, what is your main priority in the run up to the vote? Will be seeking re-election?

YELTSIN: I have already answered that question in part. But to follow up, it is most important to try to avert new upheavals and prevent the past tragedy from being repeated. Six months on, there are indications that the country has shifted to a different option—that of understanding and cooperation with confrontational attitudes receding into the backyard of body politics. My own task is to help this in every way but above all, to arrange stable relations between the government, legislature and judiciary.

There emerges a new climate of cooperation with the Federation Council and State Duma. Though there are some hitches, there is also a drive for seeking compromise and banishing ultimatums. Dialogue is evolving. I will do my best to beef up this newly- emerging creative mood so that the parliament works through its term of office and the next election comes into its own stead in conditions of internal stability and higher standards of political culture.

The accompanying task is to try to consolidate the unity of Russia and our Federation as a whole. There is a good deal of doom and gloom about its possible breakdown, but this will not happen. We managed to stop it from plunging into chaos at the most complicated moment. The process is now under way of evening up federal relations, though with pain and friction sometimes because of regional specifics. But it is under control both by the center and the regions. We must make a serious advance at home in the next two years. And also within the CIS. I do not want to speak at length about our plans here, this is a big and entirely different theme altogether. But I think our states will move closer to each other in the next two years.

And of course, there is a third important priority, that is the country's economy. All of us are learning hard. Looking two or three years back, it can be said with a fair amount of certainty that we have learnt a few things. By now, we have managed to recover only a tiny part of the experience it took Russia centuries to gain and which was later destroyed. Recovery is under way and its pace will increase in parallel. In this sense, the next two years will be crucial. I hope that many of the ills of our economy will have gone and all of us will feel much relieved.

As for the second part of your question, I think it has been raised much too early.

IF: Opinions vary about the concept, formula and timing of Russia's entry of the NATO-sponsored Partnership for Peace [PFP] program. What is the president's viewpoint on this?

YELTSIN: We have our own concept of European cooperation. Its key elements—the CSCE as a priority regional political forum and the Council of North Atlantic Cooperation as a leading mechanism of military-political partnership—will coordinate the activity of other structures including NATO's.

Russia backed up the NATO plan from the very start. On the formula and timing of Russian membership of the Partnership plan, I have instructed the defence ministry and other government structures to look into the main parameters of Russia's political and military cooperation within the framework of the Partnership. It stands to reason that in its scope and dimension, Russia's partnership with NATO must be entirely different from that of other countries. The question is one of signing a special agreement with NATO as befits Russia's place and role in Europe and internationally and its military might and the status of a nuclear power.

Overall, we are not in a rush. We have held a series of consultations with CIS states and other countries are close to sign an outline document.

Yeltsin Suspends Ingushetia President's Ruling

PM0704145194 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 7 Apr 94 p 1

[Edict No. 659 of the Russian Federation President "On Suspending the Validity of Edict No. 63 of the Republic of Ingushetia President 'On the Republic of Ingushetia Minister of Security' Dated 21 March 1994"; dated Moscow, the Kremlin, 5 April 1994 and signed by Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin]

[Text] In connection with the publication of Edict No. 63 of the Republic of Ingushetia President "On the Republic of Ingushetia Minister of Security," dated 21 March 1994, which contravenes Article 71 of the Russian Federation Constitution and the Russian Federation President's Edict No. 19 of 5 January 1994 "On Ratifying the Statute on the Russian Federation Federal Counterintelligence Service," I decree that:

1. Guided by Articles 80 and 85 of the Russian Federation Constitution, the validity of Edict No. 63 of the Republic of Ingushetia president "On the Republic of Ingushetia Security Minister" dated 21 March 1994 is to be suspended.

2. A proposal shall be made to Republic of Ingushetia President R.S. Aushev that he bring the aforementioned edict into line with the Russian Federation Constitution.

3. This edict comes into force from the moment of signing.

[Signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin
Moscow, the Kremlin
5 April 1994
No. 659

Yeltsin Appoints Shakhray Deputy Prime Minister

LD0704120494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1135 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow April 7 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has appointed Nationalities Minister Sergey Shakhray as deputy prime minister, the press service of the president reported today. Thus the number of deputy prime ministers amounted to six, including one first deputy.

Shakhray Urges More Time for Signing Civil Accord

MK0504101094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 Apr 94 p 1

[Yevgeniy Krasnikov report under the "In Brief" rubric: "Shakhray Satisfied With Memorandum on Accord"]

[Text] Sergey Shakhray has told your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent that he received the draft memorandum on civil accord drawn up by the presidential administration (during the drafting Shakhray himself supervised the work of a section that drew up the memorandum's provisions on interethnic and interregional relations). Shakhray said that he was completely satisfied with "the high quality of the document," but he had a number of proposals to make regarding the procedure of adopting it. Shakhray believes that the ratification of the document should not be rushed and that "it would be better to work on it for a month or two," than to have it signed by representatives of parties representing the same political spectrum. In Shakhray's view, "this slowness" in drawing up the document will enable, say, Anatoliy Lukyanov and his allies, "who are preparing their own draft document on civil accord," to join it. Shakhray thinks that the document should be passed to the State Duma, adopted by it as a law, and opened for new signatories. "Both Rybkin and Yeltsin ought to sign the memorandum not as citizens, but as statesmen," Shakhray said.

Yeltsin Amends Draft Agreement on Civic Peace

LD0604174494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1411 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] As Interfax reported earlier, on Tuesday evening President Yeltsin sent copies of the draft agreement on civic peace to the potential signatories.

The only difference between that draft and the one prepared earlier was the absence of the provision on measures to increase wages in accordance with inflation and to ensure their timely payment, to check the rise in prices on staple food stuffs, to create jobs and to help the regions where the danger of unemployment is the greatest.

Head of the president's experts Aleksandr Livshyts told Interfax on Wednesday that such an amendment had been motivated by the need to scrupulously work out this provision. He said that the amendment did not mean Yeltsin denied the importance of those measures. He said, however, that the initial variant sounded rather abstract because it did not say who was responsible for implementing them. Livshyts believes that this drawback will be done away with in the final draft.

Prosecutor-General Kazannik on Resignation, Plans

LD0604162794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1306 GMT 6 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow April 6 TASS—The State Duma's amnesty decision was not called in question either by the collegium of the procurator-general's office, or by its former head Aleksey Kazannik, because "the procurator's office is not a debating club, and its duty is to carry out the parliament's decisions."

Nevertheless, Kazannik told a meeting of the Council of the Federation here today that he had received a written instruction from the president not to carry out the amnesty. Considering that Kazannik, as he said, did not have any constitutional guarantees in the form of a decision of the Council of the Federation, appointing him to the post of procurator-general, he decided to resign and announced his decision during a press conference at the procurator- general's office on February 26.

Kazannik also said that he was asking nothing from the Council of the Federation and that he was "satisfied with the fact that the Council of the Federation was discussing this issue."

Kazannik told journalists during a break in the deliberations of the Council of the Federation, which is to pass a decision on the appointment of a procurator-general, that he was hatching plans to set up his own party, made up of law-abiding people. "If such a party is set up, I would prefer to call it a party of concord and national progress," Kazannik said. He told journalists also that he was receiving offers from Omsk, Yekaterinburg, and Novosibirsk to head various associations. Most of them came from intellectuals.

Hopes To Resume Duties

LD0604211294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1919 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] "I hope to resume my duties as Russia's prosecutor general as the upper house of parliament did not accept my resignation," Aleksey Kazannik told Interfax in an interview he gave in a Moscow hotel. In his view, this decision made by the Federation Council "has not created any new realities or complex problems."

"I will work. What kind of problem can that be? Because the upper house did not endorse the presidential decree on my resignation, I remain Russia's prosecutor general and that is all there is to it. Under Article 102 of the Constitution this issue is to be decided by the upper house. I appreciate the Federation Council's respect for the Constitution and the Law. This will be the first swallow of the 'legal spring'," Kazannik said.

"I would have been grateful to the Federation Council even if it had accepted my resignation," Kazannik continued. "The very fact that this issue was discussed in parliament proves that our law makers respect the law and legality. People understood that it was impossible to live in a legal vacuum."

Kazannik said that "when the decision made by the Federation Council is formulated, this will be a legal act which cannot be resisted. In this way, there will be no question of Aleksey Ilyushenko staying in office as an acting prosecutor general."

Kazannik recalled that he had been dismissed from the prosecutor's office on February 15 by order of an acting prosecutor general. "I understood then that the situation was awkward and did not even withdraw my job records from the prosecutor general's office," he said.

"The upper house's decision changes my plans. Now I am not thinking of any political parties. I am sure that President Yeltsin and I will have good business relations in the framework of the Constitution of which he is the guarantor as head of the Russian state," Kazannik said.

He emphasized that he would concentrate on fighting crime when he resumed his duties.

Council Supports Kazannik

LD0604174994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1518 GMT 6 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow, 6 Apr—A form of words releasing Aleksey Kazannik from the post of Russian procurator general has failed to gain a majority of votes. The chairman of the teller's commission reported that 68 deputies in the Federation Council voted in favor of releasing him, while 74 voted against.

According to the standing orders adopted today by the Federation Council, the procurator general is deemed to be released from his duties if a majority of the total number of deputies in the Federation Council votes in favor of that. The total number of deputies in the chamber is 174. Voting slips were taken by 145 people today. Therefore, over half of the total number of deputies did not vote in favor of releasing Kazannikov, the members of the teller's commission concluded. However, the chamber was unable today to formulate a legally satisfactory decision on the issue. It was decided to do that tomorrow. The sitting ended at that point.

Yeltsin Regrets Council Decision

LD0604175094 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 6 Apr 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Literally a few minutes before the start of our program, the Information Television Agency received a statement issued by Russian President Boris Yeltsin, which expresses regret that the results of the voting in the Federation Council did not make it possible to adopt a final decision on the appointment of a procurator general. This outcome, the document says, does not mean that the former procurator general will return to his post; and thus Aleksey Ilyushenko will remain as acting procurator general. The president also considers that the Federation Council deputies who have been invested with the people's trust will find a suitable way out of the situation that has arisen.

Ilyushenko To Perform Duties

LD0604175194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1411 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] "Even if the Council of the Federation disagrees with the resignation of Aleksey Kazannik from the post of Prosecutor General, his duties will be performed by Aleksey Ilyushenko appointed to the post by President Yeltsin." This is the opinion of the official presidential representative in the Federal Assembly, the prominent lawyer Aleksandr Yakovlev.

On Wednesday he told Interfax that under the constitution the Council of the Federation appoints and dismisses the Prosecutor General but only candidates proposed by the president. Therefore, in Yakovlev's opinion, "common sense prompts that the council itself does not have the right to appoint anyone acting Prosecutor General, this remains the prerogative of the president."

Yakovlev recalled that Kazannik resigned of his own free will, not as a result of "any unlawful moves by the leadership, in this case the president." "Therefore in any case the duties of the Prosecutor General will be performed by the person appointed by the president," Yakovlev said.

Yeltsin Aide Views Dispute

LD0704101994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0948 GMT 7 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow April 7 TASS—"Along with urging to step up anti-crime struggle, deputies to the Federation Council are actually creating obstacles for law-enforcement agencies, because in the current situation every lawyer may turn down any state prosecutor on the grounds that he was appointed by the prosecutor-general, not approved by the Federation Council," Georgiy Satarov, President Yeltsin's aide, told ITAR-TASS today. He commented on the desire of the upper chamber of the Russian parliament to set its resolution on the problem of the Russian prosecutor-general against the instructions of the head of state.

Satarov explained why Kazannik under no condition can come back to the post of prosecutor-general: "There is no legal act under which Kazannik could claim his previous post. He was not approved by the Federation Council on that post, and the president's decree on his resignation was the latest document. If the president removed Kazannik from his post by his own free will, the Federation Council would have the right to examine reasons for the decision taken by the head of state. However, Kazannik's resignation was voluntary, and the president only accepted it. According to the Constitution the head of state is the only one who has the right to submit to the Federation Council a candidature to the post of prosecutor-general."

President Yeltsin's aide stressed that the April 6 voting at the upper chamber of parliament over the acceptance or non-acceptance of Kazannik's resignation actually blocked a possibility of approving on that post of Aleksey Ilyushenko, whose candidature was suggested by the president, because the Federation Council linked the approval of the new prosecutor-general with the acceptance of the resignation of the previous one.

According to Satarov, Ilyushenko may be removed from discharging the duties of the prosecutor-general only if the president officially submits his candidature to the Federation Council, and the deputies reject it. Now, however, they cannot do it, because the resignation of Kazannik has not been accepted.

In his opinion, the only way out of this deadlock is to accept the resignation of Kazannik, thus paving the way for the functioning of constitutional mechanisms of the appointment of a new prosecutor- general. Until that time, "the contradiction between the old way of appointing a prosecutor-general and a principle of the new Russian Constitution, which cannot be settled by legal means, will continue to exist," Satarov said. It is not clear, however, whether or not the Federation Council will agree to hold another voting on this issue.

Shumeyko on Media Reports of U.S. Joint Exercises

LD0604151794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1137 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] The Federation Council Chairman Vladimir Shumeyko told the deputies on Wednesday that his meeting with President Yeltsin, scheduled for April 6, would not take place. Commenting on the media reports about joint Russian-American military exercises to be held in the Urals next summer, Shumeyko said that the Federation Council must not be guided by reports appearing in the press.

Yeltsin Edict on Publication, Implementation of Laws

PM0704140794 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Apr 94 First Edition p 1

[Edict No. 662 of the Russian Federation President "On the Procedure for the Entry Into Force of Federal Laws"; dated Moscow, 5 April 1994, and signed by Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin]

[Text] With a view to implementing the provisions of paragraph "e" of Article 84 of the Russian Federation Constitution, **I decree:**

1. Federal laws are subject to mandatory publication in the newly created information bulletin SOBRANIYE ZAKONODATELSTVA ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII [Collection of Russian Federation Legislation]. Federal laws are also published in ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA and are passed on for entry into the data base of official legal documents maintained by the "Sistema" scientific and technical center for legal information.

2. Publication of federal laws in SOBRANIYE ZAKONODATELSTVA ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII and in ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA constitutes official publication. The texts of official laws distributed in machine-readable form by the "Sistema" scientific and technical center for legal information are also official.

Federal laws can also be published in other printed publications and promulgated via television and radio.

3. Federal laws enter into force throughout the territory of the Russian Federation 10 days after the day of their official publication.

The date of entry into force of federal laws indicated in this paragraph does not apply in instances when a federal law stipulates another date for its entry into force.

4. Federal laws adopted on matters concerning the ratification and denunciation of international treaties are also published in the BYULLETEN MEZHDUNARODNYKH DOGOVOROV [Bulletin of International Treaties].

5. SOBRANIYE ZAKONODATELSTVA ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII is published weekly and consists of three sections: Federal laws are published in Section One, Russian Federation presidential edicts and directives in Section Two, and Russian Federation Government decrees and directives in Section Three.

Sections Two and three are subdivided into two parts: Part One contains statutory documents, Part Two contains documents of a nonstatutory nature.

6. Documents published in SOBRANIYE ZAKONODATELSTVA ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII are placed in entries with corresponding sequential numbers. Appendixes to documents are placed in the same entries as the documents themselves.

7. Further to the Russian Federation President's Directive No. 428-rp of 8 August 1992, the duty of publishing and distributing SOBRANIYE ZAKONODATELSTVA ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII is placed on the Juridical Literature publishing house under the Russian President's Administration and—in machine-readable form—the "Sistema" scientific and technical center for legal information.

8. Further to the Russian Federation President's Edict No. 363 of 4 April 1992 "On Amendments to the Statute on the State-Legal Administration of the Russian Federation President," the State-Legal Administration of the Russian Federation President is to be tasked with monitoring the correctness and timeliness of the publication of federal laws.

9. The Russian Federation President's Administration is to:

found the information bulletin SOBRANIYE ZAKONODATELSTVA ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII instead of the information bulletin SOBRANIYE AKTOV PREZIDENTA I PRAVITELSTVA ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII [Collection of Russian Federation Presidential and Governmental Acts];

approve the editorial council of the newly founded bulletin;

form an editorial staff for the said information bulletin within the structure of the Juridical Literature publishing house, making provision for a corresponding increase in the publishing house's regulation personnel strength;

resolve questions linked with the size of the print run and mandatory distribution of the information bulletin.

10. The Russian Federation President's Administration is to ensure the priority dispatch in full of federal laws and Russian presidential edicts and directives to the editorial office of the information bulletin SOBRANIYE ZAKONODATELSTVA ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII and the "Sistema" scientific and technical center for legal information; the Russian Federation Government is to do likewise for Russian Federation Government decrees and directives.

11. The Russian Federation Government is to resolve within one month the question of printing facilities for the information bulletin SOBRANIYE ZAKONODATELSTVA ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII, the allocation of the necessary quantity of paper, and also the financing of work to publish and distribute this bulletin in accordance with Paragraph 7 of this Edict.

12. The Russian Federation Ministry of Communications, jointly with the editorial staff of the information bulletin SOBRANIYE ZAKONODATELSTVA ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII, is to determine the conditions for the distribution of this publication taking account of the rights of 1994 subscribers to SOBRANIYE AKTOV PREZIDENTA I PRAVITELSTVA ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII.

The Federal Government Communications and Information Agency under the Russian Federation president is to determine within one month, by agreement with the State-Legal Administration of the Russian Federation President, the procedure and conditions for the distribution of SOBRANIYE ZAKONODATELSTVA ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII in machine-readable form via the system of federal government communications and information agencies.

13. The Juridical Literature publishing house under the Russian Federation President's Administration is to ensure the publication through 1 May 1994 of Russian Federation presidential and governmental acts adopted through 30 April 1993 in the SOBRANIYE AKTOV PREZIDENTA I PRAVITELSTVA ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII and thereupon cease its publication.

14. This Edict enters into forces from the moment it is published.

'Russia's Choice' Ready for Cooperation

LD0604185194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1617 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] One of the leaders of Russia's Choice, Boris Zolotukhin, said in an interview with Interfax that he has a high opinion of the draft agreement reached on Wednesday by the leaders of Russia's Choice and the unregistered deputy group December 12 Union about possible cooperation. December 12 Union is led by Former Vice- Premier and Finance Minister of the Russian Federation Boris Fedorov.

"We used to vote in the same way in the State Duma without previous discussion, but it would be very useful to work out a certain mechanism for coordination of positions on the most important issues," Zolotukhin pointed out. He believes that regular meetings of these deputy groups could become such a mechanism for coordination of actions prior to taking important decisions in the Duma.

Asked by IF's correspondent, Zolotukhin said that similar talks with leaders of the Yavlinskiy faction were in their preliminary stages. Interfax learned that Russia's Choice will be represented by Boris Zolotukhin, the Yavlinskiy bloc Viktor Sheynis and December 12 Union by Boris Zamay. A final decision on the issue will be taken by Russia's Choice at its meeting on April 7.

Former Liberal Democrat To 'Destroy' Zhirinovskiy

LD0604185594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1617 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] A deputy of the State Duma, Viktor Kobelev, who withdrew from the parliamentary faction of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR) promised to "destroy" the party leader, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, both as a personality and a politician if he continued to use personal insults and libel "as the main means for the destruction of his enemies."

"I have arguments which allow me to say this," he told a news conference in Moscow Wednesday. Kobelev, until recently the second party leader after Zhirinovskiy, made it clear that the arguments related to the financing of the LDPR election campaign.

On the eve of the LDPR congress on April 2, Kobelev and two more deputies of the same faction, Aleksandr Pronin and Vyacheslav Marychev, received telegrams saying that they had been expelled from the party and that they could not participate in the congress.

Another deputy who claimed he withdrew from the party faction Wednesday, said his step had been provoked by Zhirinovskiy himself. Vladimir Borzyuk, the head of the LDPR Orel branch, was quoted as saying that he could serve, but not be servile. Still another deputy, head of the LDPR branch in Udmurtia, Vladimir Novikov, officially announced Wednesday he was withdrawing from Zhirinovskiy's faction. The deputies said they still supported the LDPR program and charter and considered themselves members of the LDPR.

Kobelev said they will be followed by other LDPR deputies who may hold an LDPR congress of their own once they constitute a sufficient number. At the same time, Kobelev said it would be difficult to work in the parliament outside the faction. He did not preclude joining some other faction or deputies' group in the State Duma. Among them, he indicated the nationalist patriotic Russian Way led by Sergey Baburin and Anatoliy Lukyanov, liberal reformist Union of December 12 headed by Boris Fedorov, Sergei Shakhray's Party for Russian Unity and Concord and the deputies' group New Regional Policy led by Vladimir Medvedev.

Agrarians Spurn Land Reform, Blame Yeltsin

MK0704102094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 7 Apr 94 p 2

[Boris Sherman report under the "Warning" rubric: "Agrarian Faction Leaders Threaten Peasants Strike and Ask Presidential Administration Not To Distract Collective Farm Workers From Applying Fertilizers"]

[Text] A group of leaders of the State Duma's Agrarian Party of Russia [APR] faction held a press conference yesterday, "On the Disastrous Consequences of the Administrative De-Collectivization of Peasants' Farms." The agrarians made a series of revealing statements and showed the audience (made up primarily of their own faction's deputies, who obligingly ensured a quorum at an event organized by their bosses) presidential draft edicts "On the Reorganization of Agricultural Enterprises..." and "On the Procedure for Reorganizing and Downsizing Agricultural Enterprises and Privatizing Land and Other Property," and also an analytical memo signed by Petr Filippov "On the Urgent Need To Split

Joint-Stock Companies and Collective Farms into Small Collective Peasants' Farms Before Spring Seeding Time."

"The Agrarian Party opposes any forcible actions against the peasants by the state," APR leader Mikhail Lapshin said, warning that "carrying out reform by old, administrative methods from above, reform that leads to the fragmentation of collective farms into small farms, is particularly dangerous precisely on the eve of seeding time," because "it will keep collective farm workers under strain" and distract them "from applying fertilizers to cereals."

In the view of the faction leaders, this coercion was spearheaded by the presidential administration and its chief, Sergey Filatov, in person. Complaining against him also as the mastermind behind the compilation of a "blacklist" of former Russian Federation Supreme Soviet deputies who were reported to be sympathizing with anti- presidential forces, Mr. Lapshin wondered aloud, "Why is it that one and the same building sends appeals for civil accord alongside with documents that may literally blow up society."

Mikhail Lapshin acknowledged that under the circumstances he "does not see a place for the peasantry's signature" under the Kremlin-proposed accord on civil peace. Moreover, in his opinion, "it cannot be ruled out that in mid- or late June the Russian peasantry may rise with the sole demand that this government should go."

Communist Leader: U.S. Underestimates Russian Crisis

LD0704121494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1134 GMT 7 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Barsukov]

[Text] Washington April 7 TASS—Russian communist leader Gennadiy Zyuganov said his party and its allies would do everything to achieve national reconciliation and accord in Russia. He stressed that it is impossible to stabilise the situation in the country without it, he said.

Zyuganov noted that, during his latest meetings with high-ranking representatives of the administration, he had got an impression that the U.S. leadership realised Russia's problems and a new policy toward Russia was needed. At the same time, the administration underestimates the processes underway in Russia, he said.

According to Zyuganov, "the situation in Russia is going from bad to worse as before". The state has become a "communicating court" and does not fulfil its functions. The crime rate has reached the scale of the post-civil-war period. The power is concentrated in the hands of one man, the Russian president, whose powers are four times as much as the U.S. President has. It lets those who have no powers and play a role of "collective baron" "conduct the Russian civil strife". The situation in many important spheres in the country is critical. Even missile systems do not undergo some necessary operations in time, he said.

According to the Russian communist leader, any democracy is out of the question if there is no bread, water and heating. The stabilisation of the situation is the main task requiring coordinated efforts, of the international community in particular. The further confrontation in Russia will lead to a national tragedy.

Zyuganov noted that a rather big central-leftist bloc had formed in the State Duma which can propose its own programme to overcome the crisis in the country.

Aides Deny Soskovets Illegally Bought Tin Shares

MK0704092094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 7 Apr 94 p 3

[Andrey Bagrov report: "Oleg Soskovets Versus SEGODNYA. First Vice Premier Works as Usual"]

[Text] Responding to accusations that First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets had unlawfully bought shares in the Novosibirsk tin combine, members of his staff stated yesterday that there is no documentary evidence of the charges. In the meantime some versions of the appearance of the scandalous information have been put forward in government circles.

The crux of SEGODNYA's charge against Oleg Soskovets is that he allegedly bought shares in the Novosibirsk tin combine which are distributed through private subscription. Not being a member of the work collective, the vice premier had no right to make such a purchase.

Yesterday, members of the first vice premier's staff stated to a SEGODNYA correspondent that there is no documentary confirmation of the fact that shares were bought and that Oleg Soskovets has absolutely nothing to do with this affair. According to the vice premier's aides, he reacted quite calmly to the publication and continues to work "as usual."

From the cautious remarks by members of the government apparatus, one can put together two versions of the appearance of the publication against the vice premier. The first is that the publication had been inspired by a side that had suffered in some scandal between the tin combine's shareholders. Some staffers of the Russian Federation Metallurgy Committee cashed in on this dissatisfaction in order to take vengeance on their former chief.

The second version has to do with the struggle between various conceptions of the post-voucher privatization in Russia. In this case, charges against Soskovets, according to a theory, have primarily a political-economic meaning: They are aimed at weakening the first deputy premier's influence in the final stage of check privatization and at decreasing his activism in working out strategy of the next stage.

By the way, the Magnitogorsk metallurgical combine is supposed to become a proving ground for privatization methods not controlled by Anatoliy Chubays.

Government Plans Obligatory Insurance Law by Autumn

LD0604180694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1602 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow April 6 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed a decree on Wednesday obliging the government to submit a draft law on the basic principles of obligatory insurance in Russia to the State Duma by September 1, 1994. The draft law will have to define the concept of obligatory insurance and its goals. The cabinet has also been instructed to prepare and submit draft laws on the procedure for and terms of specific forms of obligatory insurance.

The move aims at ensuring civil liberties and rights granted to the people of Russia by the Constitution, the presidential press service said.

Defense Industry Employee Arrested as Spy

LD0604133494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1249 GMT 6 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[Text] Moscow April 6 TASS—Russian counterintelligence officers have arrested a defence industry employee who tried to trade state secrets to foreigners, said Boris Miroshnikov, deputy head of the counterintelligence operations department of the Russian Counterintelligence Service.

In an interview with ITAR-TASS on Wednesday, Miroshnikov said that the number of such cases has grown lately. People offering "spy service" to foreigners justify their behaviour by their "desire to be paid according to their intellect."

Miroshnikov expressed concern about the fact that foreign intelligence services have stepped up their activity in Russia under the cover of various foundations and joint ventures. Russian business people and industrialists seeking credits or equipment for their businesses sometimes sell secrets to foreign emissaries or those who act legally and openly under the cover of firms and companies, he said.

Taking advantage of Russia's weakened administrative and legal system, foreign spies penetrate all spheres of activity. Their neutralisation forces Russia's counterintelligence to look for new ways and methods of intelligence warfare and to conduct systematic analytical work. The situation is compounded by the fact that foreign states have set up intelligence centres in some republics of the former Soviet Union and, in fact, have taken over the local intelligence services. They wage active intelligence work against Russia, using politically unstable areas, trouble spots, the Islamic factor and aggressive nationalism, Miroshnikov concluded.

Counterintelligence Deputy Chief on Goals, Ames

OW0704110394 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel and Orbita Networks in Russian 1845 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Interview with Andrey Petrovich Bykov, deputy director of the Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service, by Ye. Golubeva; under the "Dossier" rubric of the "Utro" program; place and date not given]

[Text] This is the first time a scientific and practical conference being held in our country on individual, public, and state security and the Russian special services is open to the press. A speech by Sergey Stepashin, director of the Federal Counterintelligence Service [FCS], made it clear the FCS has completed its reform for the time being and has begun functioning. The FCS's role must grow in combating organized crime and its politization, terrorism, and political extremism. Apart from purely counterintelligence activities, also put forth were the goals of protecting state and commercial secrets as well as a certain amount of protection for private enterprises participating in the national economy. By the way, a representative of the Foreign Intelligence Service announced that the question was being examined of channeling information beneficial for the country's economy to commercial structures.

A concept of national security has not been formed in our country. While the national interests of the USSR were often obstructed, whether as a concession to its allies' interests or in order to fight its opponents, today Russia can have both allies, competitors, and opponents. However, our national interests must be free from ideology. Today there is an opinion in the West that Russia cannot undertake peacekeeping missions in conflict zones bordering the territory of the CIS; supposedly this will be indicative of imperial deportment. However, Russia is a member of the UN and can carry out this mission under UN aegis. Second, who outlines the limits of the United States' national interests? However, this is rhetorical. Let us talk about individual security with Andrey Petrovich Bykov, deputy director of the Russian FCS. By the way, confidential sources told me that Andrey Petrovich, who is a doctor of technical sciences, is also one of the leading experts on defusing homemade, non-standard explosive devices of previously unknown configurations.

[Begin recording] [Golubeva] The subject is individual, public, and state security and the special services. For the first time, the individual is placed at the forefront .

[Bykov] That is because while we have always discussed state security as a conceptual problem of guaranteeing the security of the Soviet Union, today, as we shift to the building of a new rule-of- law democratic society, and since we are about to join the world community, we all must observe world standards; that includes the special services. All international documents, as well as the human rights declaration, view individual security as the first priority. It is not completely understood yet how individual security can be achieved in our changing state.

[Golubeva] What is your opinion?

[Bykov] I cannot fully answer this question either. It is precisely the goal of today's conference to develop conceptual and pragmatic approaches to the everyday activities of the special services—and the FCS among them—which would allow us to solve this problem of individual, public, and state security and the legal activity of the Russian special services. We can issue statements on guaranteeing individual security, but we still have not developed the mechanism for it. After all, there are a lot of problems here—information, personal, physical, and economic security of the individual. There are no legal documents today which would fully define the aspects of this huge problem, which is not only a state problem but one of the individual and society, of every one of us. Using a rather vulgar expression, I would even call it street security, among other things.

[Golubeva] How long will it take to develop the mechanisms for protecting the individual in our society?

[Bykov] I am a very pragmatic person, so I will refrain from categorical prognosis because the country's situation today is fairly unstable; the financial, banking, and credit system is very unbalanced; and these issues determine to a large extent the implementation of all the prerequisites, without which it is impossible to talk about personal security.

[Golubeva] Are positive relations emerging today between the FCS and the government and deputies?

[Bykov] The government, State Duma, and Federal Assembly reachs an understanding on all principle questions. The same applies to the government structure and the president's administration. We are corrected on certain issues. This is probably an inevitable process, and reaching an accord is always a result of work achieved by both sides.

[Golubeva] Do you have the right to make corrections?

[Bykov] Well, we present our proposals.

[Golubeva] Can you confirm these numbers: There were 135,000 staffers in the Federal Counterintelligence Service until the last reform; there are 75,000 today.

[Bykov] Yes, that is correct.

[Golubeva] Has there been any change in relations between the Russian and U.S. special services following the Ames affair?

[Bykov] We have witnessed no changes yet in those areas in which we cooperate with the U.S. special services. Our contacts in fighting international terrorism, the drug trade, and the arms trade continue at the same level as before. After all, we cooperate with the German special services even though we recently exposed their agent. There is no contradiction.

[Golubeva] Is there any hope the names of the 20 identified spies who worked against Russia will be made known to the public?

[Bykov] When the situation is ripe, we will relate it all in detail. You understand, they did not work in a vacuum, and every case branches off extensively, so it is not proper to tell everything at once.

[Golubeva] My "Dossier" rubric features six of them; 14 remain.

[Bykov] The time will probably come when all 14 of them feature in your file.

[Golubeva] Thank you. [end recording]

Media Issues

Draft Law Seen as Duma Bid To Control Media

MK0604124094 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 6 Apr 94 p 3

[Andrey Stepanov report: "The Deputies Have Found a Field of Miracles (reference to a popular TV quiz program of the same name). Now They Only Have To Find the Fools"]

[Text] Some citizens think in vain that they can escape the consequences of the deputies' activity in their homes. The State Duma has already decided on a master plan to stir the Fatherland. A law has been drafted whereby the deputies and their brothers from the upper chamber of parliament can stay on TV screens practically for an unlimited time.

This draft can satisfy the most fastidious deputies' tastes. For instance, it forbids news programs (ITA, Vesti, Inform-TV) to comment on events that have happened in the upper echelons of power. News bulletins, regardless of their duration, must contain information about absolutely all developments in the three branches of state power (Articles 6 and 7). But this is not all: Article 9 defines who a news or other (!) program journalist may interview, as well as the minimum length of a parliamentary report in TV news broadcasts.

Yet this part of the brilliant document contains one obvious slip: It does not specify which questions journalists may put to their interlocutors. The draft contains numerous absurdities; for instance, presidential statements may be broadcast only with the permission of unspecified "federal power bodies" (Article 6, Section 2), while the responsibility for disseminating statements by top statesmen is imposed on journalists. Although experience shows that this process rather depends on the mood of communication workers, power supply operators, and so forth.

If the draft comprised only the above, it could be taken for a toast because its main essence boils down to the fact that journalists must provide still better coverage of what they are covering already. Nonetheless, the draft includes two more types of articles.

The press must be delighted with the provisions of Article 4, Section 1, promising to wrest ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI and ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA from Viktor Chernomyrdin's control and launch them along the waves of the free market. In addition, the draft promises that no officials will be exerting pressure on correspondents, and audio and video recordings may be made wherever permitted by accreditation rules.

The president, by the authors' logic, should gratefully support the draft because the deputies, in corresponding articles, make believe that they are equally concerned about all the branches of power. A careful comparison of the "powers," however, fatefully proves to be not in favor of the head of state. Under the draft, acts of amnesty adopted by the lower chamber of parliament or laws passed by both chambers are subject to immediate promulgation. As for the president's signing a federal law (whereupon a legislative act comes into force), an edict, or an act of pardon, or presentation of Russian Federation state awards, and so forth, this should not be announced to the citizens. Incidentally, the same kind of treatment has been meted out to the judicial branch. To top it all: even the mention of the president has been expunged from an article on obligatory analytical programs which, by the way, are to be inserted into the broadcasting schedule only at the discretion of the parliamentary press service. But this must be for considerations of economy.

And finally, yet another peculiarity. The draft speaks in detail about the various types of regular programs on Ostankino, Russian, and St. Petersburg TV in which deputies will appear in groups or alone. These articles provide for everything except the source of financing and, most important, the total air time limit that the deputies may claim without cost.

Linnik Reinstated as PRAVDA Editor in Chief

LD0604210394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2023 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow April 7 TASS—Viktor Linnik, former editor-in-chief of the PRAVDA daily, was reinstated in his post on Wednesday following a court inquiry. Under the resolution passed by the court, Linnik will receive his salary for two months during which he was compelled to stay away from work and an administrative sanction against him will be lifted.

A conflict in the editorial office of the PRAVDA daily flared up following claims made by Greek partners to founder's rights, trade mark and property of the newspaper. Linnik shares the position of part of newspaper workers who believe that any encroachments on the oldest Russian newspaper are inadmissible. The court ruled that a decision to dismiss Linnik was adopted at a meeting of journalists in the absence of quorum and overruled the decision as invalid.

Another court inquiry will be held to establish whether Greek claims are legitimate.

Media Arbitration Court Warns Opposition Newspaper

LD0604162894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1318 GMT 6 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Ivanova]

[Text] Moscow April 6 TASS—The Russian Mass Media Arbitration Court warned a hard-line opposition newspaper it may be closed if it continues to publish speculative anti-Yeltsin articles.

The court ruled that the publication of extracts from a novel "Mysteries of Kremlin" by former Soviet mp Iona Andronov in the newspaper "ZAVTRA" (TOMORROW), the successor to the notorious "DEN", presented a violation of "the law on the press".

The court stated that in accordance with the law the government is entitled to issue a corresponding officiial warning to the newspaper. Two such warnings within one year are enough to close the periodical.

The court stated that the publication was "based on absurd conjectures" and qualified it as aimed to "destabilize the situation in Russia and bar the signing of the memorandum on civic peace".

The published extracts from the novel by an ardent Yeltsin's foe alongside with bitter criticism against the Russian president, concentrated on the most delicate theme of the present political situation—the state of health of the Russian number one.

Audit Reveals Losses at Ostankino TV

PM0504145994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Apr 94 p 9

[Unattributed report: "Auditors Have Done Their Calculations. Who Will Shed A Tear?"—from the "IZVESTIYA-TV" section]

[Text] In January it became known that the Control Administration of the Russian president's administration had began an audit of "Ostankino's" financial and economic activity.

The presumption of innocence (a sacred juridical principle) was crushed by rumors, malicious gossip, and verbal and printed extrapolation of the repeatedly surfacing individual criminal and semicriminal episodes in "Ostankino's" history.

In its very first edition "IZVESTIYA-TV"—although without specific names, with approximate figures, and anonymously (for which we were, perhaps fairly, censured)—peppered the Russian State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company ["Ostankino"] with accusations of virtually total corruption.

Without the slightest hint of malice, we note that the rumors, the major premises of the article "'Ostankino': Everything for Sale," and the warnings of experts have proved to be not without basis. The high-quality and thorough audit has revealed violations and has unambiguously exposed financial machinations and "slip-ups" reflected in "Ostankino's" losses, which run into millions and billions of rubles [R]. Here are just a few figures and statistics from the extensive documentation on the results of the audit.

In 1993 R441 million worth of unpaid advertising was broadcast by just five studios. Overall last year the company should have received—according to expert assessments—at least R60 billion from advertising, but received just R11.2 billion.

"Ostankino" concluded contracts that were known to be unprofitable with the "Inmac" Joint-Stock Company and a number of Western firms (here Yu. Bandura, "Ostankino's" former deputy chairman, especially distinguished himself). Manipulations manifestly far from altruistic were exposed, involving advertising time in the "Aleskandr-shou" program, broadcast 16 January this year. "Ostankino's" leaders conducted business with excessive loyalty—and clearly to the detriment of the company's own interests—with the "Premyer SV" advertising agency, which will cost the company R12.3 billion.

In 1993 the volume of broadcasting was reduced by almost one-third by comparison with 1991, but the number of studio personnel by only 17 percent. And this, while the quality of programs fell and in the midst of a financial crisis.

Over the past two years "Ostankino" has lost many buildings and much equipment, and most importantly of all, the Television Technical Center. But perhaps the most terrible loss is its loss of prestige, its good reputation in the eyes of the public and millions of viewers.

We do not know what administrative and juridical measures will be taken, but it will be very difficult to recoup the moral and professional losses suffered.

Military & Nuclear Issues

Yeltsin Dismisses Biological, Chemical Weapons Aide

LD0704120094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1139 GMT 7 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow April 7 TASS—Boris Yeltsin dismissed on Thursday Anatoliy Kuntsevich, chairman of the committee on conventional problems of chemical and biological weapons at the Russian president, for "numerous and rude violations of labour duties", the press service of the Russian leader said on Thursday.

Yeltsin Signs Edict Reorganizing Air Rescue Service

LD0604212194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1635 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow, 6 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—Russia's President Boris Yeltsin has signed a decree, "On the abolition of the Russian Federal Aerospace Search and Rescue Service, and the creation of the Federal Aerospace Search and Rescue Directorate [Federalnoye Upravleniye Aviatsionno-Kosmicheskogo Poiska I Spasaniya] under the Russian Defense Ministry." The decree stipulates that the Federal Directorate is the successor to the Russian Federal Service.

Major General (aviation) Gennadiy Amelkin has been appointed head of the Federal Directorate. An ITAR-TASS correspondent was informed of this by the Russian president's press service.

General Denies Plans To Disband Air Defense Forces

PM0704121594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 Apr 94 p 1

[Viktor Litovkin report: "Moscow Air Defense District Command Holds Open Day at Secret Facility"]

[Text] The Moscow Air Defense District's main command post is situated among new buildings in Moscow's residential district of Anino. Quite recently it was a facility surrounded by barbed wire, which even some of the commander's deputies were prohibited from entering. But after it was visited by the U.S. secretary of defense and by FRG, Chinese, Indian, and North Korean delegation heads, it was the turn of journalists. Admittedly, Russian journalists, not foreign journalists contrary to the present tradition.

What is the Moscow Air Defense District command post? The three-story bunker buried 20 meters in the ground with a two-story building on top resembles an officers' club. The command post can withstand a direct hit by an atom bomb, and can operate on stand-alone for 10 days without depending on the city's electricity and water supply networks.

According to Lieutenant General Pavel Kuznetsov, Moscow Air Defense District chief of staff, the district monitors an air space of 1.3 million square km, the territory of 24 Russian oblasts, the district's 4,000-km border, and over 140 highly important military-state command and control and economic facilities, including those where there is a danger of radiation. There are eight of them—nuclear electric power stations. It can track and fire on 500 targets in flight at once.

Although during a conversation with journalists Colonel General Anatoliy Kornukov, commander of the Moscow Air Defense District, attributed the unusual openness of the district's secret installations to the military's sincere desire not to keep secrets from their people where there should be none and to the traditional meetings with the public on the eve of Air Defense Day, there is another reason for the journalists visiting the main command post. There has been talk that air defense is unnecessary and of the need to cut the already small military budget by disbanding the Air Defense Forces.

Gen. Korunkov said that no one has any intention of disbanding the Air Defense Forces. Strangely enough, it is far cheaper to keep them in a state of high combat readiness today than to cut them, and the need for them still exists.

Arms Import-Export Company's Director Interviewed

PM0704095594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Apr 94 First Edition p 2

[Interview with Lieutenant General Viktor Samoylov, general director of the "Rosvooruzheniye" State Company, by Lada Lyashenko; place, date not given: "Peddling Military Goods"]

[Text] Last November the "Rosvooruzheniye" State Company for the import and export of arms and military hardware was set up in accordance with a presidential edict. Our correspondent discussed the aims and tasks of the "Rosvooruzheniye" State Company with Lieutenant General Viktor Samoylov, general director of the "Rosvooruzheniye" State Company.

[Lyashenko] Viktor Ivanovich, what prompted the idea to set up this new arms import and export company?

[Samoylov] All these organizations [not further identified] were simply duplicating each other. The new state company is leaving the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations structure, but is nonetheless the successor to the organizations you have listed. Previously, under the rigid system for managing economic activity, foreign exchange revenue from weapons sales was distributed by the state itself. The situation then changed, enterprises were being floated, and they began acquiring their own economic interests. The process of producers entering the foreign market began to snowball.

But how could this be done without knowing the basic rules adopted in the world of the arms trade, without having any idea about pricing conditions, the system of credit provision, and much else besides—quite apart from the fact that the arms trade business, as a rule, is strictly secret and foreigners are not privy to these secrets? But this was not all. Often the interests of such businessmen overlap with the interests of our state, and buyers played them off against each other in order to knock down the price of military goods. Just imagine the picture of the Bangladeshi or Malaysian defense ministers, who were visited by 24 Russian representatives in the space of a year, each claiming the exclusive right to supply Russian weapons.

[Lyashenko] What specifically will "Rosvooruzheniye" be doing?

[Samoylov] Primarily, importing and exporting all sorts of weapons and military hardware, military property, and strategically important raw materials. We are beginning to operate in the world market as a powerful financial and industrial group with excellent professionals who know not only about military hardware but also about economics and marketing—in other words, the entire arms trade mechanism.

One fundamentally new task is to invest our own funds and those of others in defense-sector enterprises. Organizing our work with them on a contractual basis, our company plans to use state and commercial credits to develop and produce primarily weapons types and military hardware that will be competitive on the world market.

The largest military-industrial complex enterprises will continue to take part in foreign economic activity under agreements with "Rosvooruzheniye."

[Lyashenko] How will the income be shared out between those taking part in the production and sale of military products?

[Samoylov] We are developing this mechanism. But, for instance, in the United States the bulk of the money raised from arms sales goes to reduce the burden of defense expenditure and to subsidize defense production. It resolves the problems of restructuring the defense complex.

[Lyashenko] Viktor Ivanovich, in restructuring the arms trade like this, will we not be losing our old and pretty good ties on the world market?

[Samoylov] "Rosvooruzheniye" has made a very cautious entry into the market. The arms trade is a relatively long process—it is not the same as pumping oil down a pipeline. After all, the partner state buying our weapons also has to make a government-level decision and allocate budget appropriations. And it is very difficult to make such important decisions in a democratic state with its multiparty system and different views, whereby you sometimes need a virtually nationwide referendum to decide whether to buy our MiG's or a U.S. aircraft. That is why the people representing the vendor country are exceptionally important to the purchaser country. And we are doing everything to ensure that Russia's prestige in this area is not damaged.

Defense Industry Chief on Plans To Revive Exports

MK0504093094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 Apr 94 p 4

[RIA report under the "In Brief" rubric: "Russian Arms Export Up"]

[Text] The export of Russian arms and military hardware in 1993 was up 11.7 percent, standing at $2.15 billion. Interestingly, the share of products intended for export amounted to as little as 5.2 percent of the arms manufactured. This was announced by Viktor Glukhikh, chairman of the Russian State Committee on the Defense Industry. He admitted that the number of arms importing countries had fallen to 26, that is to half of what it was at the time of the former USSR in 1990. Importantly, Russia has virtually lost an arms market in the Baltics, where arms now come from Israel. According to him, Moldavia [Moldova] is increasingly orienting itself in its imports policy toward Romania, while arms suppliers in China, Iran, and Turkey are actively working in the newly formed states of Central Asia.

Still, Glukhikh thinks that the CIS market should be a priority for Russia. There is a considerable quantity of weapons there created on the basis of the former Soviet standards and arms systems which are being produced in Russia. To boost arms exports, the head of the State Committee on the Defense Industry thinks, one should arrange for supplies of spare parts for military hardware, servicing, repairs, and modernization of armaments delivered. These problems will be tackled as a package by the recently created "Rosvooruzheniye" state company.

Servicemen Threatened With Loss of Perks

MK0704122094 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 7 Apr 94 p 1

[Unattributed report under the "Hold the Front Page!" rubric: "They Beat Our Army on All Fronts"]

[Text] The heads of interested ministries have submitted their proposals for the next Council of Ministers session, which will look at benefits for servicemen.

To all appearances, officers and retired servicemen of the armed forces will have to part with many benefits. In his letter to Chernomyrdin, Deputy Finance Minister Astakhov proposes that servicemen be deprived of free medical service (that is to say, the network of military outpatient hospitals should be closed down), and that compensation for treatment at sanatoriums and health resorts and transport fares be abolished. At the same time, Astakhov proposes that staffers of the Russian Federation Ministry of Internal Affairs entitled to retirement pensions but continuing to serve should receive additionally an average of 75,000 rubles each.

Deputy Minister of Economy Mikhaylov, responding to the same request, thinks that benefits for servicemen cannot be available in 1994, and he suggests that federal budget possibilities be studied once again. Deputy Social Protection Minister Kisilev writes to Chernomyrdin that their agency is against the mandatory state insurance of servicemen's property, and for abolishing reduced prices in trade outlets for military personnel.

The Finance Ministry also insists that even if servicemen are to keep their benefits, it should only be done from the Defense Ministry's own budget—which has been considerably reduced through the efforts of this same Finance Ministry.

Debts, Security, Supplies Threaten Nuclear Industry

LD0604152594 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Passages within quotation marks recorded; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Correspondent] Experts are already worried about the situation on Russian nuclear power stations. For example, it has become perfectly clear that the security system for strategic sites, which include nuclear power stations, will have to be completely rebuilt. Special services employees say that since the Ministry of Internal Affairs took over the command of the special group Vympel, which specializes in preventing any terrorist threat, this subunit has practically ceased to exist and there is no one to defend nuclear sites.

At the same time there is also many other problems. The state owes half a trillion rubles to employees of nuclear stations. This has forced them to send picketers to Moscow. The leadership of the nuclear industry trade unions says that nuclear power stations are experiencing difficulties not only with wages:

[I. Fomichev, deputy chairman of the Central Committee of the Nuclear Industry Trade Union] "There is enough fuel for about a month."

[Correspondent] A threat of stoppages by nuclear power stations means not only a loss of 12 percent of electric energy. For regions like Chukotka this is a question of life and death. Only a law prohibiting strikes on strategic sites stops employees of nuclear power stations from going on strike. However, new demands have come from provinces on the last day of authorized pickets of state institutions in Moscow.

[Fomichev] "Unfortunately, because the government continues to ignore our problems, the workforce is beginning to put forward political demands. Unfortunately the people we voted for, the people whose responsibility is to solve these problems, are not doing it."

Stations Face 'Stoppages'

LD0504135194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1305 GMT 5 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Marina Barinova]

[Text] Moscow April 5 TASS—All Russian nuclear power stations now face stoppages. Because of various faults nuclear reactors at many of them do not operate to full capacity. In addition to technical reasons, the work of nine Russian nuclear power stations is affected by huge indebtedness to them by consumers. It amounts now to over 600 billion roubles. Observers believe this urges operators to protest actions such as the picketing of the government building conducted today. Because of the lack of funds, nuclear fuel cannot be bought. Prophylactic work cannot be done on time. Planned recharging of reactors with fuel is skipped. So nuclear power plants in Russia may turn out of energy producers into major energy consumers.

Social tension is heightening among the personnel of nuclear power plants. Wages have not been paid to them for three of four months. Nuclear power plant operators have to resort to extreme measures. Five operators of the Kursk nuclear power station were recently fasting in protest against non-payment of wages. Despite the government decision to conclude collective agreements with workers in nuclear power, such an agreement was concluded with the personnel of only one of the nine stations, the Beloyarsk nuclear power plant.

The coordination council for joint actions formed by trade unions of nuclear power sent an address to the Russian president, government and parliament. The address pointed to the need to stabilise the financial situation in the region.

So far all Russian nuclear power stations have to work in a regime on strict economy. Because of this their output dropped by half.

Economic Issues

Deputy Minister Outlines Draft Budget to Duma

LD0504163794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1618 GMT 5 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Galkin]

[Text] Moscow April 5 TASS—Parliamentary hearings on the draft law "on 1994 federal budget" was held today at the Russian State Duma. First Deputy Russian Minister of Finance Vladimir Petrov tried to convince the deputies that the draft will help to overcome the economic crisis and start economic revival.

Petrov described the budget to include 120,000,000,000,000 rubles worth of revenues and 62,400,000,000,000 rubles worth of deficit as realistic and the only correct from among all the suggested drafts. The budget is expected to cut the inflation to monthly seven-eight per cent at the year end and halve credit emission as compared to 1993.

Many spending items, including social needs, will remain at the 1993 level as compared to the gross domestic product. The defence spending is expected to reach 37,100,000,000,000 rubles or 5.1 per cent of the gross domestic product.

Some 5,000,000,000,000 rubles will be spend on state management bodies, which is more than last year. "We came to conclusion that the validity of the presidential decree on civil service shall be suspended till 1995. The decree's implementation would mean 11,000,000,000,000 rubles worth of spending on the state machinery," said petrov.

The draft budget takes into account the moratorium on increased salaries in budget-financed spheres in the second quarter of 1994, which would require additional 2,000,000,000,000 rubles. The government thinks it should fulfill all of its previous promises and then start further indexation of salaries with due account of the state financial position.

The first quarter of 1993 brought 8,400,000,000,000 rubles worth of revenues to the budget, which is less than it was planned. A reason for this is that a number of territories, primarily Bashkortostan and the Republic of Sakha dodged the payment of taxes to the federal budget. Negotiations with their leadership is underway to settle the problem. The first quarter's spending amounted to 17,200,000,000,000 rubles.

Bank Official on IMF Economic Policy Memorandum

LD0504161194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1316 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] The memorandum on the economic policy of the Russian Government and the Central Bank of Russia (CBR) is nearly ready for signing. The basic indices of this document which will have to be sent to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have been agreed, CBR Board Chairman Viktor Gerashchenko told INTERFAX. He thought that the memorandum could be sent to the IMF before the Russian parliament approves the 1994 budget.

After analyzing the memorandum the IMF ruling body will decide on making the second part, worth $1.5 Bn, of the systemic credit available to Moscow.

Gerashchenko thought that Russia would have that amount as early as in May. The credit will be used to offset the budget deficit which is expected to be 62.4 Tn rubles. The credit will be distributed through the Russian interbank market.

Trade Union Group Calls for Action on Economy

PM0504131394 Moscow TRUD in Russian 5 Apr 94 p 4

[Unattributed report: "FITUR Urges People To Form Columns"]

[Text] May Day—the day of working people's solidarity—is approaching. We are greeting it at a difficult time for Russia. The overwhelming majority of working people, an appeal by the FITUR [Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia] to the country's trade union organizations and labor collectives says, are concerned at the unstable socioeconomic and political situation, the wholesale slump in production, and the growing unemployment. Voices are being heard increasingly loudly protesting at the improverishment of vast sections of the population and at the very flagrant violation of people's constitutional rights in view of the failure to pay wages for many months, the reduction of social programs, and the rampant crime.

The president, parliament, government, and various sociopolitical forces are calling for the attainment of universal civil accord in Russia as the chief condition for extricating the country from the profound economic and social crisis. The FITUR supports the idea of civil peace, the appeal states, seeing this as a real way to resolve very acute social problems. At the same time, expressing the will of working people, we demand the adoption of urgent measures to ensure:

the ending of the production slump, support for Russian entrepreneurship, and the resolution of problems of reciprocal nonpayments;
guarantees of the full and timely payment of wages;
the adoption of a state employment program to avert the threat of mass unemployment;
citizens' security on a firm legislative basis.

The FITUR urges working people actively to support these demands and to display the solidarity of working people in the struggle for their rights by participating in the May Day events.

Yarov on Calls for Protecting Poor People

LD0604170294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1550 GMT 6 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Liliya Kuznetsova]

[Text] Moscow, 6 Apr—To stop the increase in the number of people in Russia who find themselves beyond the poverty line—this is the main objective of the state social policy in 1994. Yuriy Yarov, deputy chairman of the Russian Government, said this today at a meeting between heads of ministries and services of the social bloc and journalists.

In his opinion, the fight against hyperinflation and social stabilization in society should not be set against each other; one should not put financial interests above those common to all people, while at the same time one should not forget that people's lives cannot be improved without improving the economy and reducing inflationary processes.

The social policy, Yuriy Yarov said, is the first to be affected by a fall in production. Reduced budget revenues have resulted in a situation whereby the Finance Ministry's debt to the social sphere in 1993 amounted to 228 billion rubles. In addition, although last year's debts are being paid off, non-payments for the first quarter of 1994 are growing: as of today the debt amounts to 500 billion rubles.

At the same time, the deputy chairman of the Russian Government said that only 12.4 trillion rubles have been allocated to resolving all social problems, which is 9.5 percent of the budget. In his view, at least 15 per cent of the federal budget's assets are necessary just to resolve the most painful problems in the sphere.

Finance Ministry's Dubinin on Adherence to Credit Limits

MK0604104094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 6 Apr 94 p 2

[Yelena Tregubova report under the "Principles" rubric: "Finance Ministry Promises To Keep an Eye on the Federal Budget. The Senate Has To Put Up With It So Far"]

[Text] Sergey Dubinin, acting finance minister, who presented the Law on Financing the Federal Budget Expenditures in the Second Quarter of 1994 to the parliament's upper chamber yesterday, said that the 9.4 trillion rubles [R] in Central Bank credits "have already been kind of allocated," and that the government still sees the established R10.6 trillion as the "upper ceiling."

The government plans to hold all talks with the regions "within the limits of the established volume of the budget;" that is, Mr. Dubinin assured, "if someone asks for more money, one should understand that we will thus cut someone else's funding."

The government "still insists," he said, that the regions may keep 22 percent of tax revenues—not 35 percent, as local authorities demand. At the same time, the acting finance minister emphasized, territorial authorities have been given the right to impose any taxes "without limitation even on the part of the federal parliament." In addition, local authorities will be exempt from the obligation to report to the center about regional budgets' expenditures.

As for "government debts toward last year's credits," Sergey Dubinin pointed out that, "legally speaking, nothing but obligations under bilateral treaties can be recognized as debts." Such include, for instance, the treaty on government orders with the Defense Ministry, agreements with workers' collectives on the payment of wages, and government agreements with coal miners, he said. The government has estimated last year's debts of this kind at R4 trillion, of which R3 trillion have already been repaid, Dubinin said. The remaining R1 trillion is expected to be repaid by issuing securities, a measure on which an agreement with the Central Bank has already been reached, Mr. Dubinin said.

During the discussion on the draft law the acting minister told the senators that if they fail to adopt the document, which was earlier passed by the lower chamber, this would "create an extremely difficult situation, because only a lawyer will be able to figure out in light of the current Constitution whether the government may undertake any financing at all." A bit later Sergey Dubinin remarked, however, that if "an extreme situation" like that occurs, then "even a decision by the State Duma alone may be considered fully sufficient for maintaining the country's viability."

Central Bank Will Not Deplete Reserves

LD0604122294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1132 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow April 6 TASS—"The Central Bank of Russia [CBR] will not protect the rouble's rate against the dollar up to the last cent in its reserves," CBR Governor Viktor Gerashchenko said in an interview with BUSINESS-TASS after his speech on finance and credit policy at a parliamentary hearing on the Russian draft budget for 1994, which was held on Tuesday.

"I believe that the rouble's rate should be at a level which would not force Russian exporters to leave foreign markets," he continued. "If they are forced to do so, this will mean that the rate is rigged."

The governor said that the CBR's hard currency reserves now total 4.5 billion dollars. They somewhat dropped due to the active policy of pegging up the rouble vis-a-vis the dollar in January. The present task is to boost the CBR's hard currency reserves to nine billion dollars by the end of the current year.

There were some 13,000 billion roubles in circulation in the country, as of January 1, 1994. Gerashchenko noted that the 100,000-rouble bill "should not be put into circulation for the time being".

Government Predicts Sharp Rise in Jobless this Year

LD0604183594 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Video report by correspondent R. Safronov; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] A number of ministers in charge of social issues, led by Yuriy Yarov, deputy chairman of the government, held a news conference today. They revealed some very interesting facts. For example, Labor Minister Gennadiy Melikyan said that the number of people in Russia with incomes below the poverty line nearly halved in February. The reason for this is that people working in the public sector had a pay rise in that month, the child allowance was increased, and pensioners began receiving compensation for inflation.

However, the current year does not hold any bright prospects in store. According to Yuriy Prokofyev, head of the Federal Employment Service, the country today has 989,000 registered unemployed, which amounts to one percent of the able-bodied population. As for the real unemployment figure, currently estimated at about 4 million, it could reach 6.5 million by the end of the year, accounting for eight percent of the able-bodied population. To prevent this category of the population from sliding into extreme poverty, public works such as street cleaning are to be organized, which will be paid for from the federal budget. The 100 percent unemployed will receive an unemployment benefit and those who would like to change their profession will be offered retraining schemes, with grants higher than the unemployment benefit.

Government Plans Tighter Control of Oil Exports

LD0604112394 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0400 GMT 6 Apr 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] By the middle of the current year, all oil exporters will be determined by the Russian Government. This matter was previously dealt with by the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations. This decision has been made by the government commission on operational issues. In the opinion of experts at the RIKA news agency, the government commission's decision is connected with the fact that the state budget received just $6.9 billion of the $8.5 billion revenue from state oil export quotas. In order to prevent petrodollars leaking abroad, a group of authorized banks will soon be entrusted with the handling of oil exporters' accounts.

70 Percent Industrial Privatization Expected in 1994

LD0604163394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1325 GMT 6 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Petrenko]

[Text] Moscow April 6 TASS—If the pace of privatisation is maintained, more than 70 per cent of Russia's industrial enterprises will become private by the middle of the year, according to specialists of the Russian State Property Management Committee.

Paradoxes in Russia are not an exception, but a rule—despite the continuing production decline, enterprises are in no hurry to get rid of the redundant employees, appealing to the temporary character of current difficulties.

While the total production output dropped by 16 per cent in Russia in 1993, the number of workers and employees decreased only by five per cent. Even the shortage of raw materials, fuel and spare parts and overstocked warehouses have failed to discourage plants and companies from sacking their employees. To retain their workforce, they resort to various ruses, including shorter working weeks or unpaid leaves.

The leadership of Moscow's Zil automobile plant that halted its assembly lines on April 4 laid off workers and employees, promising to pay 75 per cent of their leaves. As of the beginning of the year over seven per cent of all workforce in industry worked part time.

However, market relations are beginning to make themselves felt. Industries which have already completed the process of privatisation are more willing to get rid of the redundant labour. In machine engineering and metal working industry the number of workers dropped by 800,000 in 1993, in chemical and petrochemical industry by 50,000.

Another factor is that labour is flowing from the state sector to private businesses. Currently, less than 19 million people work in Russia's industry. Slightly more than half of them work at state enterprises, one third at firms and companies with mixed form of ownership and 11 per cent in private business.

However, the situation is tend to change rather rapidly. Specialists of the Russian State Property Management Committee said that if the pace of privatisation is maintained—over 900 large and medium-sized enterprises a month—more than 70 per cent of industrial enterprises will become private by the middle of the year. They will employ 17 million people.

Industrial Production Data Analyzed

PM0604143994 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 6 Apr 94 p 1

[Unattributed feature under the general heading: "71 Percent of 1993 Level. Drop in Production May Mean End to Production of Unnecessary Output"]

[Text] The statistics regarding the state of our economy in March can hardly be cause for optimism. Vice Premier A. Shokhin admitted that we have not seen such a slump in production throughout the years of reform.

One should not doubt the accuracy of the State Committee for Statistics' [Goskomstat] figures—the country's main accounts department has been working better and, importantly, more honestly. There is certainly a slump, but what has caused it? Statistics do not provide the answer to this question and that is why it is just as hard to paint a real picture of the situation in our economy as it is to say without knowing the rate of exchange who is richer—an Italian with 1 million lire or a Turk with 1 million Turkish lire.

First it is necessary to compare the figures for the production of various categories of output with the demand for this output. Undoubtedly, a considerable proportion of the decline is due to the fact that production of unnecessary or poor-quality output has stopped and been replaced by imports. This means that a normal market has begun to operate with a manager only buying what he needs.

The second reason for the fall in demand is the fact that enterprises are resorting to their own internal stocks: Previously idle machine tools are being started up, dust-covered tires are being supplied from depots, and electric motors that are still fit for work are not being scrapped. This second inhibitor of demand will quite obviously exhaust itself fairly rapidly—stocks will run out—and this represents the main potential base for the revival of demand and future economic growth.

A third inhibitor will however also manifest itself here—one that is coming into play even today—prices. Will enterprises have the money to buy equipment that they really need and that is of really good quality (the same applies to consumer goods for the population)? This question is perhaps the most tricky. Today many enterprises are cutting production and are inundated with goods that are necessary in theory but are failing to find a market owing to their price which potential customers consider to be too high. A kind of "trench war" is under way—who will sit the other out?

In a normal market economy the vendor is usually the first to "give in," lowering prices and guaranteeing himself a profit by increasing turnover. When this mechanism comes into play in our country too, then it will be possible to say that another important element of a civilized market has appeared. But at the moment we evidently cannot do without vigorous intervention on the part of the state. This primarily applies to the rescue and recovery of unviable production units.

A second highly important lever for state regulation is credit policy. We have finally managed to get inflation under control—it has proved possible by targeted efforts to lower the rate from 18 percent in January to 8.7 percent in March. It is quite likely that the rate will be reduced further in the coming months to 5-7 percent. But is that necessary? The leadership of the Ministry of the Economy believes that it is more advisable to slightly raise the rate of inflation once an influx of credit into the most viable sectors and production units has been guaranteed.

It is not only "bald" statistics that are needed to adopt such decisions, but also in-depth analysis of what is behind a particular figure. Otherwise decisions are adopted on the basis of the following principle under pressure from sectoral lobbyists: "Everything is collapsing, let us help." Analysis of the economic situation along with the adoption of the corresponding decisions must be prompt and efficient.

Production of the Most Important Categories of Industrial Output in the First 20 Days of March 1994

In the first 20 days of March 1994 the average daily volume of production of 13 out of 163 reported categories of output—8 percent of the total—rose compared with the same period in March 1993 (including urban telephone system cables, polypropylene, potash fertilizers, asbestos-cement pipes and sleeves, cotton fabrics, school books, pencils, full-fat cheeses and sheep's milk cheese, and toilet soap), while production of 145 categories of output, or 89 percent, dropped.

During this period in March 1994 no tower cranes with a load capacity of eight tonnes or more, no feed-, grain-, and flax-harvesting combines, and no mainline electric locomotives were manufactured.

According to Russian State Committee for Statistics Figures

	A	B	C
	Production in the first 20 days of March 1994	As a percentage of the same period (average daily production) in March 1993	As a percentage of the same period (average daily production) in February 1994
Electricity produced by general-use power stations, billion kilowatt-hours	54.4	94	92
Oil, including gas condensate million tonnes	15.7	82	98
Natural gas, billion cubic meters	36.4	99.0	99.0
Coal, million tonnes	14.9	85	91
Steel, million tonnes	2.4	73	104
Steel pipes, thousand tonnes	174	49	86
Metal cutting machine tools, units	263	29	79
Automobiles, thousands	47.0	88	113
Tractors, thousands	1.1	15	130
All fabrics, million square meters	131	80	86
Footwear, million pairs	2.9	42	106
Televisions, thousands	136	71	89
Refrigerators and freezers,thousands	127	71	79
Electric vacuum cleaners, thousands	50.6	29	100.2
Washing machines, thousands	92.3	47	85
Meat, including Category I meat offal, thousand tonnes	84.0	67	101
Wholemilk produce in milk terms, thousand tonnes	343	83	100.4
Butter, thousand tonnes	15.4	63	117
All granulated sugar, including production using customer-supplied raw sugar, thousand tonnes	43.9	32	82

Optic Fiber Line Links Moscow, St. Petersburg

LD0604092194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1505 GMT 5 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Excerpt] Moscow, 5 Apr—The optic fiber communications line between Moscow and St. Petersburg which became operational today can be described as a breakthrough in Russian telecommunications. Mayors Yuriy Luzhkov and Anatoliy Sobchak could meet on the screens of monitors defying the distance of 675 km between them. This unusual video link-up took place simultaneously in the capital and the town on the Neva. It crowned the efforts of three firms—"Metrokom," "Raskom," and "Makomnet"—established in Russia by "Andrew Corporation," a U.S. company which is a world leader in telecommunications. On the Russian side, the partners were the subways of both towns, the October [Oktyabrskaya] railway, and the "High-Speed Tracks" joint-stock company.

The video equipment used for this special news conference was connected to the sections of the optic fiber network laid down in subway tunnels in each town and along the entire October railway. The technology transmits simultaneously huge volumes of audio, video, and computerized data both within the country and to international communications satellites. [passage omitted]

Progress of Economic Reforms Viewed

PM0604141694 Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 3 Apr 94 p A4

[Anders Aslund 'Debate' article: "A Threat to Europe"]

[Text] A few months after the frightening outcome of the elections in Russia we can stop holding our breath. Things are not as bad as they once looked, and once again the prophets of doom have been proved wrong.

So far the new Russian parliament is working much better than the old Supreme Soviet. It consists of eleven relatively cohesive groups with a degree of party discipline. Businessmen are no longer able to buy individual deputies. The parliament's power is balanced, because the new constitution has introduced a normal distribution of power.

The old Supreme Soviet had an overwhelming majority of red-browns, but they have only 34 percent of seats in the new Duma, and they are respecting the parliamentary rules. Zhirinovskiy's closest allies are already beginning to abandon him. The four democratic groupings are well represented with 35 percent of seats. In practice a number of centrist groupings are dominant. The system of parliamentary compromises has begun to work.

Regional leaders have taken their places on the Federation Council, the parliament's upper chamber, the trend toward dissolution inside Russia has softened considerably since the new constitution was adopted. Even stubborn Tatarstan has come to an agreement with Moscow.

Despite the fact that Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin was not a candidate in the elections, he appears today to be the most powerful politician. He has a strong power base in the state machine and heavy industry, at the same time that he represents the parliamentary center and can play democrats against the red-browns. In practice it is not President Yeltsin but Chernomyrdin who has come to exercise the strong executive power which the constitution gives to the president.

As is well known the change in the economic system has progressed far too slowly in Russia. In addition the democrats have failed to get their message to the broad masses of the people. That is why the old establishment has been given a breathing space in which to recover. Its more progressive wing led by Chernomyrdin has now won power. The KGB and other sinister sections of the old Soviet establishment have in their turn had time to reshape themselves into crime syndicates because the process of liberalization has progressed so slowly.

Democracy has grown stronger and crime rates have fallen in countries where the transition from one system to another has been more radical and consistent, such as Poland and the Czech Republic or Estonia and Latvia. In addition the social costs of the change of system in Russia have been much larger than they need have been.

Now that the alarm over the elections results has abated, what is most surprising is how much has actually been achieved through the change of system in Russia. Today Russia has a market economy, even though it suffers from some distortions and a high degree of lawlessness. Deregulation has largely been implemented. More than half of those Russians in work are now working in the private sector. The main question is how high the level of inflation will be.

In January there were many of us who were worried by the fact that Chernomyrdin sounded as if he intended to abandon all policies of stabilization. Now, with hindsight, it seems as if he was indulging in some opportunistic hot air, partly to escape criticism, and partly to force the liberal deputy prime ministers, Yegor Gaydar and Boris Fedorov, to resign for political reasons. In practice Chernomyrdin has now taken over their economic policies.

Since October Russia has actually had an extraordinarily tight monetary policy, which has forced down inflation to a level of 11 percent in February. Since market interest rates are at all of 20 percent per month (800 percent per year) Russia has the world's highest level of real interest.

The budget deficit is still on the large side at 9 percent of GNP, but IMF chief Michel Camdessus was nevertheless sufficiently impressed by the Russian attempts at a policy of stabilization to agree—on certain conditions—to sign a new stabilization agreement with Russia and grant Russia new credits.

Today's official targets are to bring inflation down to 7 to 9 percent per month by the end of the year, against last year's average of 20 percent per month. The battle against inflation ought to be more ambitious, in order to make possible economic recovery, and the excessively hesitant anti-inflation policy increases the cost to society.

However, the tough monetary policy has begun to bite on large enterprises which refused for as long as they could to adapt to the laws of the market economy. In general bad enterprises with no demand for their products do not go bankrupt, nor do they fire employees. They simply scale down activities until they are almost at a standstill. Salaries fall behind inflation and are often paid three to four months late, so employees seek jobs with better enterprises if they can. Almost all Russian enterprises are now demanding advance payment from each other.

However, many enterprises are now experiencing great demand and their biggest problem is that they are unable to increase their production because of the combination of high inflation which undermines their working capital and the high real interest rates which mean that they cannot afford to take credits. These enterprises are no longer calling for subsidized credits but, on the contrary, for a stricter budgetary policy so that real levels of interest rates fall.

The standard picture of Russia is of a country with plummeting living standards, but this picture is false. After a large fall in 1992 the recovery began in 1993. It is true that official GNP fell by 12 percent in 1993, but remarkably enough the population's income rose by all of 9 percent. One explanation is that the share of private consumption rose from a low of 36 percent in 1992 to 41 percent in 1993, while two thirds of the GNP of Western countries goes to private consumption.

When the share of private consumption is so small, the trend of developments in GNP is not that important, but the Russians' living standards are likely to rise sharply over the next few years because consumption's share of GNP should increase considerably.

Another explanation is that much of private production cannot be measured because of tax evasion, while state production was exaggerated under communism. In addition it can only be good for living standards if the production of nuclear arms, for example, decreases, even if GNP then falls.

Also, a properly functioning market produces a much better distribution of resources. The most remarkable result is that this year Russia looks as if it will be self-sufficient in grain, while people were worried about starvation in Russia in the winter of 1991/92. Today a large number of import goods which raise living standards—particularly medicines—have penetrate the whole of Russia.

Despite everything the Russian economy is on a pretty safe track. Swedish businessmen are noticing this. In the first 11 months of 1993 Sweden's exports to Russia increased by a total of 56 percent. Russia is in fact our most rapidly growing export market.

What has frightened the West most since the Russian parliamentary elections is the new Russian foreign policy which asserts Russian interests with a ruthlessness that is new and also reminiscent of the past. In the most recent edition of the periodical, FOREIGN AFFAIRS, former U.S. security adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski has criticized the U.S. administration for pursuing a foreign policy that is too Russocentric and the administration already seems to have changed its foreign policy along the lines demanded by Brzezinski.

Brzezinski does not oppose the U.S. attempts hitherto to support the economic and political stabilization of Russia, but he advocates two important complementary policy strands. The first is to incorporate the successful central Europe (and this should include the Baltic region) into the West. As an American Brzezinski advocates NATO membership, but EU [European Union] membership is a natural alternative.

Brzezinski's other complementary strand is that the central objective of a farsighted Western policy in the region should be "to consolidate geopolitical pluralism inside the former Soviet Union." His central thesis is: "Russia can either be an empire or a democracy, but not both."

I personally believe that the fears that Russia will engage in activity that will destabilize Eastern Europe are exaggerated. Russia has had enough of the torment of the former Soviet Union and its actions in Bosnia are most likely to teach the West the lesson that Russia is a great power with its own national interests which intends to play an active role in the field of European security policy. Eastern Europe should, however, be integrated into Europe if the sort of feeling of national security which leads to stability is to be achieved.

Russia's policy toward the former Soviet republics, on the other hand, gives cause for concern, but there still are strong forces in Moscow which are working against attempts to reincorporate former Union republics, since this would destabilize Russia both politically and economically.

A telling example is how a potentially destabilizing currency union between Russia and Belarus recently came to nothing. The more successful the fight against inflation in Russia, the stronger grow the anti-imperialist forces in Russia. This is why it is important for the rest of the world to support a stabilization of the Russian economy.

If former Soviet republics collapse, however, it will be extraordinarily difficult for a government in Moscow not to intervene. It is difficult for the rest of the world to criticize Russia's involvement in civil-war-torn Tajikistan and it has no alternative to Russian "peacekeeping" forces in the Caucasus.

Economic destabilization is probably a serious threat. A total of nine out of fifteen former Soviet republics suffered hyperinflation—more than 50 percent inflation in any single month—in 1993. Among the other former Soviet republics only the three Baltic republics have been more successful economically than Russia. Veritable shock therapy as in Estonia and Latvia seems to produce the best results, but attempts to carry out a radical change of system are the next best thing. Things are worst when countries like Ukraine try to carry out a gradual change of system.

The worst threat to European security is the far-reaching destabilization of the Ukrainian economy. In time Ukraine's hyperinflation must lead to both social and political destabilization, and regardless what government is in power in Moscow Russia will be unable to remain an onlooker. This is why the collapse of Ukraine could also be a catastrophe for Russia and the rest of the world.

The central objective for the West's security policy should therefore be to work to prevent the collapse of the

Ukraine. The main problem is that the whole of the Ukrainian political leadership with President Leonid Kravchuk at its head seems to be totally irresponsible and corrupt, while the Ukrainian population is embarrassingly passive. However, the Ukrainian parliamentary elections may have made a democratic revolution possible.

The West's first priority should be to contribute to enlightenment in Ukraine and make it clear that it is possible to achieve Ukraine's economic salvation through a radical change of system. At the same time the West must alleviate the shock by making substantial credits available if Ukraine initiates a credible change of system.

Regional Affairs

Ingush President May Leave Talks Following Decree Approval

LD0704131694 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1200 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Today the Federation Council approved a decree by the Russian president on introducing a state of emergency in the conflict zone on the territory of North Ossetia and Ingushetia. The discussion was held behind closed doors and lasted four hours. However, the issue was not settled, and the problem will be discussed tomorrow.

After the session, Ingush President Ruslan Aushev stated to an ITAR-TASS correspondent that he may leave it. He disagrees with the approaches used to settle the conflict. North Ossetian President Akhsarbek Galazov refrained from commenting on the content of the presidential decree.

Disapproves of Yeltsin Decree

LD0704153194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1242 GMT 7 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow, 7 Apr—President of the Ingush Republic Ruslan Aushev today told an ITAR-TASS correspondent about the possibility of his leaving the session of the Federation Council. He made this statement at the end of a closed session of the upper chamber of parliament on ratifying the Russian president's decree extending the state of emergency in part of the territory of the Republic of North Ossetia and of the Ingush Republic for another two months.

Ruslan Aushev explained this "disagreement with the approach to the resolution of the problem of settling the conflict in the territories of North Ossetia and Ingushetia." In his opinion, "in drafting the President's decree on extending the emergency, the opinion of the component parts of the Federation should be taken into account." "This especially concerns those instances when questions are being tackled connected with change of the territories to which the force of the emergency is extended," he stressed. The Ingush president said the position of his republic remained as before: "It is necessary to give power to the interim administration in the conflict zone and disarm all the military formations."

President of North Ossetia Akhsarbek Galazov refrained from commenting on the content of the President's decree, and limited himself only to the statement that "it is necessary to move towards peace, stop shooting, and start working."

Sobchak Urges Chernomyrdin To Aid in Local Crisis

LD0604154694 St. Petersburg Fifth Channel Television Network in Russian 1130 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] The mayor of St. Petersburg has sent a letter to the government chairman, Viktor Chernomyrdin, which reports the critical situation of financing the city economy. Revenues in the first months of this year as compared to December last year have fallen by 40 percent. Today the debt owed by the mayor's office to budget-funded organizations is 110.607 billion rubles. To prevent the further development of critical phenomena in the city, Anatoliy Sobchak is asking the Russian Government to allocate a grant of 40 billion, provide compensation for the expenditure on increasing wages for workers in budget-funded organizations, and to preserve the amount allocated to the city budget from VAT at the 1993 level. In accordance with a presidential decree the tax was reduced from 50 percent last year to 25 percent this year.

Left-Wing Parties' Success in Orenburg Elections

PM0704100394 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Apr 94 p 2

[Report by Yuriy Nikiforenko, deputy of Orenburg Oblast Legislative Assembly, under the "Elections in the Regions" rubric: "Compromising Materials Did Not Help Either"]

[Text] Orenburg Oblast's electoral commission for the results of the elections in the Orenburg region has confirmed the mandates of 36 deputies. This is absolutely adequate to form the leading organs of representative power.

The voters supported the leaders and activists of the "Against Poverty, Unemployment, and Corruption" bloc of the peoples' patriotic forces, which included representatives of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, the Russian Communist Workers' Party, the Agrarian Party of Russia and the Agrarian Union, the Union of Commodity Producers, the "For Social Justice" electoral association, the trade union of the agro-industrial complex, the "Officers Union," and other organizations. They also refused to vote confidence in representatives of "Russia's Choice," "Democratic Russia," and the social democrats.

The "democrats" conducted themselves in a very nervy manner right through the campaign, and their unofficial supervisor V. Shapovalenko, who holds the post of presidential representative, attacked the left-wing forces' candidates in radio and television broadcasts and violated the statute on the elections, which forbids officials of state organs of power to campaign.

On election day, Shapovalenko conducted himself in a very tempestuous manner at the polling stations, striking fear in the hearts of commission members and verbally abusing communist candidates. The oblast electoral commission was forced to send the president an official statement about his improper behavior. He is now interpreting the election results loosely and is dissatisfied because practical men representing the working people's interests have been elected to the oblast legislative assembly.

The compromising materials which the presidential representative prepared against candidates who were not to his liking and with which he hit television viewers a day before the elections, also failed to work. It is no accident that many Orenburg residents doubt whether the position of presidential representative is necessary.

Opening of U.S. Consulate in Yekaterinburg Reported

PM0604102394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 Apr 94 First Edition p 6

[REport by Vadim Khusainov under the "Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow" rubric: "U.S. Consulate Opens in Yekaterinburg"]

[Text] The official opening ceremony of the U.S. Consulate General in Yekaterinburg has taken place. Jack Siegel has been appointed consul in the Urals.

U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ronald Brown; Thomas Pickering, U.S. ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Russia; leaders of state departments; and around 30 U.S. businessmen came to Yekaterinburg for the opening ceremony.

In an interview the consul general gave to ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, Siegel said that for the time being only three of the consulate's departments will be working in the Urals: those for business, politics, and culture.

Chuvash President, Tatar VP Sign Treaty

944F0539B Kazan IZVESTIYA TATARSTANA in Russian 5 Apr 94 p 1

[Chuvash-Tatarstan communique]

[Text] A meeting between N. Fedorov, president of the Chuvash Republic, and V. Likhachev, vice president of the Republic of Tatarstan, was held on 1 April 1994 in Cheboksary. Having discussed the state of economic, cultural, and scientific and technological relations with one another, the parties reached the conclusion of the need for their reinforcement and development by way of conclusion of a bilateral friendship and cooperation treaty.

During discussion of the social and political and economic situation in the Russian Federation the parties supported the reforms based on the principles of democracy, justice, and law that are being implemented. The role of the treaty between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tatarstan of 15 February 1994 and the [line illegible] and reform of Russia was emphasized in this connection.

The parties believe that all contentious matters on the territory of the Russian Federation should be resolved exclusively by peaceful methods, on the basis of negotiations. The president of the Chuvash Republic supported the proposal of the vice president of the Republic of Tatarstan concerning the creation in Kazan of a Eurasian Center for International Cooperation.

In their examination of humanitarian issues the parties observed that the official policy being pursued in the Republic of Tatarstan and the Chuvash Republic was geared to unconditional respect for human rights in accordance with international standards. The president of the Chuvash Republic and the vice president of the Republic of Tatarstan presented an initiative for the elaboration in Cheboksary under the aegis of UNESCO of an international project aimed at the preservation and development of the cultures and languages of the peoples of the Volga-Urals region.

V. Likhachev, vice president of Tatarstan, invited N. Fedorov, president of the Chuvash Republic, to pay an official visit to the Republic of Tatarstan. The president of the Chuvash Republic invited M. Shaymiyev, president of Tatarstan, to pay an official visit to the Chuvash Republic. The invitations were gratefully accepted.

The meeting was held in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding.

The text of the communique was drawn up in Chuvash, Tatar, and Russian.

[Signed] N. Fedorov, president of the Chuvash Republic
V. Likhachev, vice president of the Republic of Tatarstan

Krasnaya Presnya Soviet Resumes Activities

PM0604154194 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Apr 94 p 1

[Report by Yuriy Makhrin: "Soviet Power in Krasnaya Presnya"]

[Text] The city of Moscow's Krasnopresnenskiy Rayon Soviet presidium has adopted a decision to resume the activities of this organ of power. The decision notes that using his unconstitutional edicts, Yeltsin abolished the lawfully elected organs of representative power. The elections to the municipal soviets were fixed for March, then June, and now it is planned to put them off until the fall. But local self-government has been put entirely in the hands of an army of bureaucrats. You get the impression that this has been done on purpose.

The decision says that having become defenseless, Krasnaya Presnya residents are appealing for help from their deputies whose powers remain effective until 1995. In connection with this, the rayon soviet's activities resumed as of 28 March. It will hold consultations for Muscovites on legal questions and questions of housing, defend people's rights in the courts, and publicly monitor the executive branch's doings which are at present unchecked.

A public office for the rayon soviet has been set up. Sessions of the rayon soviet and its inner soviet should resume work in the space of a month. It has been decided to halt their activities only after the election in Moscow of the municipal soviets.

It has been reported to the editorial office that Rayon Soviet Chairman Aleksandr Krasnov has already been summoned to the city prosecutor's office, where there is concern about the rayon soviet's having resumed its activities.

Tatar Anti-Treaty Nationalists Join Ranks

MK0604111094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 6 Apr 94 p 2

[kReport by Dmitriy Lukashov under the "Tataria" rubric: "Tatar Nationalists Unite in the Face of Common Danger"]

[Text] A plenum of the "moderate" wing of the Pan-Tatar Public Center [PTPC] was held in Kazan on 2 April.

The "moderates" and "Radicals" from Tataria's biggest national organization now sit separately while it is still not clear which of them after all has the more right to be called the PTPC. Judging from the moods in the plenum, the positions of former comrades-in-arms have again begun to converge on the basis of an extremely negative attitude to the treaty between Russia and Tataria signed in February. Even the "moderate" PTPC has altered its critical stance, to one of direct confrontation with the republic's leadership.

The plenum expressed a vote of no confidence in the republic's leadership, which "has betrayed the Tatar people's interests," and stated that the PTPC demands early elections for president, Supreme Soviet, and heads of administrations.

In the opinion of local observers, the Tatar national-patriots now have a chance to have a new leader capable of uniting the different trends. Rafael Khakimov, adviser to the Republic of Tatarstan president and a former PTPC ideologist, may become one such leader. The address at the plenum made it clear that he, too, has come to oppose the leadership and is likely to hand in his resignation soon.

Should Mr. Khakimov really come to lead the national movement, the other leaders would have only a union to support because there now exist no differences between them save personal ones.

Tatar Supreme Soviet Presidium Detailed

944F0539A Kazan IZVESTIYA TATARSTANA in Russian 5 Apr 94 p 1

[Republic of Tatarstan Supreme Soviet Press Center report: "Sitting of the Republic of Tatarstan Supreme Soviet Presidium"]

[Text] A sitting of the Tatarstan Supreme Soviet Presidium was held yesterday.

In his introductory remarks at the opening of the sitting F. Mukhametshin, chairman of the Supreme Soviet, dwelt on a number of the priority problems confronting Tatarstan.

He emphasized that the treaty concluded between Tatarstan and Russia legally enshrined the path trodden by the Republic following the proclamation of state sovereignty. The results of the ballot on 13 March were a kind of vote of confidence by Tatarstanis in the policy chosen by the Republic.

Now, F. Mukhametshin said, it is necessary to immediately begin formulation of the strategy of the political and economic development of Tatarstan under the new historical conditions. It is necessary to get right down to filling sovereignty with real content, assimilate to the maximum the possibilities that have been acquired, and engage as quickly as possible the mechanisms of realization of the central provisions of the treaty. It is necessary to formulate an official program specially for this. It is a question of painstaking work geared to confirmation of the durability of sovereignty.

This means an intensification of the work [line illegible]. It is necessary to critically review the state of affairs in all sectors of the economy, analyze the financial, tax, and credit policy pursued by the government, and closely examine the priorities of economic support proposed by the president of the Republic of Tatarstan in his budget message for 1994. It is essential to revitalize the government's manifestly inadequate work on the search for internal reserves and possibilities of Tatarstan for imparting new impetus to the economic reforms, for a way out of the crisis, and for support for small and medium business.

His speech noted particularly that an appreciable adjustment of the law-making activity of the Supreme Soviet and its Presidium was required under the new conditions. The Supreme Soviet should by political and legal means support the realization of the treaty and the state sovereignty of the Republic. New laws actively influencing the progress of the economic reform and laws ensuring the social protection of the populace are needed. It is necessary to accelerate the preparation of bills on a reform of the representative and executive organs of state power of Tatarstan. The obsolete forms are clearly holding back development here, F. Mukhametshin said.

The chairman of the Supreme Soviet called attention to the need for an all-around analysis of the progress of privatization in the Republic and to the activity of the enterprises that have been converted into joint-stock companies and their relations with the treasury. Preparation for the spring field operations was cited as being among the priority areas of work today. The problem of the fight against crime must not disappear from the field of vision.

With the participation of members of the government and deputy chairmen of city and rayon soviets of people's deputies of the Republic, the sitting then examined the question of the progress of realization of the basic provisions of the Law "On Languages of the Peoples of Tatarstan" in Zelenodolsk and Zelenodolskiy Rayon. The decree on this matter was assumed as a basis.

The Presidium adopted the decision to continue the business of the Supreme Soviet 19th session on 16 April and to submit for its consideration the budget message of the president of the Republic of Tatarstan for 1994 and also a number of other supplementary questions.

The sitting also examined other questions of the Republic's state life. M. Sabirov, prime minister of the Republic of Tatarstan, his deputy F. Khamidullin, and Finance Minister D. Nagumanov took part in the business of the Presidium and spoke. The sitting was chaired by F. Mukhametshin.

'Illegal' St. Petersburg Elections Viewed

PM0704103194 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 Apr 94 p 2

[Report by Nikolay Volynskiy: "Most Illegal"]

[Text] In Russia's entire history there has perhaps been no other state measure conducted with so many violations of morality and law as the 20 March through 3 April elections to the St. Petersburg city assembly.

As we have already reported, in most of the districts not even a miserly 25 percent of voters went to the polling stations 20 March. Matters were saved by the servicemen, whom A. Sobchak had first deprived of electoral rights and then later granted again. He used his own authority to extend the elections by a further 24 hours. The soldiers and cadets were led in orderly fashion to the ballot boxes but....

A few days later the city electoral commission announced the figures: How many voters were on the lists and how many had gone to vote. It emerged that in approximately half the districts slightly more than 25 percent of citizens had turned out and consequently the second round of voting would be held here. Meticulous journalists nonetheless did a recount—and did not get 25 percent. A day later the city electoral commission produced different, "improved," figures. Then 10 electoral blocs, movements, and parties issued a joint statement demanding that the elections be considered invalid. Incidentally, the elections were "valid" almost exclusively in districts where members of the "Democratic Unity" bloc (a pseudonym of "Russia's Choice") were running and it was they who came out ahead.

The city prosecutor's office meanwhile lodged a protest at the results and Mayor A. Sobchak admitted on television that the elections were invalid but... immediately scheduled the second round of voting for 3 April. The city awaited with interest the decision of the city court, to which the city prosecutor's office had appealed, demanding that A. Sobchak's directive on extending the elections be repealed. The case seemed clear: The mayor had no right to extend the elections since the Russian president had authorized him to scheduled just one single day for them. In turn the mayor's side asserted: If he issued the statute on elections himself then he can make any amendments to it. The mayor's lawyers avoided the question of whether these amendments might contradict the president's edict.

The court decided they could. And it rejected the prosecutor's office's claim. The prosecutor's office lodged an appeal with the Russian Supreme Court.

Meanwhile the start of the second act had been announced. But a turnout of 25 percent at the polling stations was by no means compulsory 3 April. As the newspaper NEVSKOYE VREMYA wittily noted, in theory just one person could go to the polls, that would be enough. It cited interesting statistics from which it emerged that the overwhelming majority of St. Petersburg's population was quite unable to support the present authorities.

Thus the St. Petersburg authorities have done everything to ensure that the results of the elections, given a more serious attitude toward them on the part of the law enforcement organs, can be annuled at any moment.

International Affairs

Lvov Administration Establishes Cooperation With U.S.

WS0604092894 Lvov RATUSHA in Ukrainian 24 Mar 94 p 1

[Report by Omar Uzarashvili: "Lvov Mayoralty Will Cooperate With U.S. Government"]

[Text] Vasyl Shpitser, chairman of the Lvov City Administration, and Emmy Osborn, first secretary of the U.S. International Development Agency [IDA], have signed a memorandum on mutual understanding between the agency and the Lvov City Administration. As Vasyl Shpitser noted, the mayoralty has reached a new level of cooperation and assistance to the city. Since IDA is subordinated directly to the U.S. Government, it can be said that the Lvov Administration has begun cooperation with the U.S. Administration.

Cooperation with the Lvov Administration will proceed according to a drafted program. The project "Municipal Finances and Management" is to be implemented first. As project director Eric Chatwind stated, the project includes several programs. The agency's permanent adviser is to arrive in Lvov, and will assist the Lvov Administration for two years. Moreover, also expected are advisers on specific issues who will arrive during the implementation of the project. Lvov specialists will attend special courses in the United States, and scientific seminars will be held in Lvov. In the near future, the U.S. side will grant to the Lvov Administration $2 million to purchase computers and other equipment necessary to ensure regular operation of the mayoralty. Additionally, the agency will help the Lvov Mayoralty to receive a considerable 17-year loan from the World Bank, which will be used for municipal needs. I promise the mayor that we will bring with us all the knowledge in municipal management that exists in the United States, and that we will share this knowledge with you, Eric Chatwind pledged.

Lvov has won the right to implement the U.S. project in a tough competition among such cities as Kiev, Odessa, Mykolayiv, or Ternopil.

Polish Defense Minister Arrives in Kiev

LD0604112894 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1000 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] A delegation of the Republic of Poland's national Defense Ministry today arrived in Kiev for an official visit. It is led by the head of the neighboring state's military department, Piotr Kolodziejdzyk. His meetings with the leadership of Ukraine and its Defense Ministry are in the program of the minister's three-day visit.

Radetskyy, Kolodziejdzyk Discuss Cooperation

WS0604162194 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1400 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] The Ukrainian and Polish Armed Forces are planning to foster cooperation in the defense arena. [Word indistinct] a delegation from the Polish National Defense Ministry arrived in Kiev today on an official visit. The delegation is headed by National Defense Minister Piotr Kolodziejczyk. An official meeting between the Defense Ministries of the two neighboring states was held at the Ukrainian Defense Ministry. Vitaliy Radetskyy and Piotr Kolodziejczyk exchanged opinions on the deepening of [word indistinct], military cooperation, [words indistinct] in development of mutual relations between the Defense Ministries of the two states.

Official Hails 'Revolutionary' Cooperation Pact With EU

WS0504174194 Kiev KIEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 23 Mar 94 p 3

[Report on interview with Ukrainian Deputy Foreign Minister Oleksandr Makarenko by Yuliya Mostovaya; place and date not given: "Reforms, Reforms, and Once Again Reforms"]

[Text] Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko initialed an agreement "On Partnership and Cooperation With the European Union [EU]" in Brussels today. Ukraine thereby became the first CIS state to initial this document with the EU.

What we have managed to do so far, said Deputy Foreign Minister Oleksandr Danilovich Makarenko after returning from Brussels, even according to their estimates, represents a revolutionary breakthrough. The point is that formally this is an agreement "On Partnership and Cooperation With the EU," while in essence this is an agreement on associate membership in the EU. Similar agreements have been signed with Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia. The difference between our agreement and their's is that their negotiations on setting up a free-trade zone with the EU will be finished in eight years, while similar negotiations with Ukraine will begin on 31 December 1998.

Nevertheless, according to Oleksandr Danilovich, all quantitative and qualitative restrictions on trade between Ukraine and the EU have been lifted. Though there are some exceptions on a group of goods including textiles, metals, and nuclear material. These restrictions will be valid until 31 December 1998, and they will later be rescinded. It is up to us how far we should be able to move forward in signing separate accords. Negotiations on agreements for textiles and metals are approaching their conclusion, and we believe that we will conclude them in the immediate future.

[Mostovaya] However, Oleksandr Danilovich, the export of metals is of a priority for Ukraine....

[Makarenko] You are right. However, Europe has never been a priority market for selling our metal. There are other markets in the world, and they are rather vast. I refer of course to the states of Southeast Asia, where we could export 3-4 million tonnes of steel a year. [end Makarenko]

Next, Oleksandr Danilovich said that the document was initialed after four rounds of talks, the first of which was held in March of last year and the last one—in March of this year. Russia has already held eight rounds of talks, but the text of the agreement is not yet ready. At the same time, we have managed to enlarge the scope of our mandate. Moreover, the preamble states that the EU supports the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine because this will promote stability in both Central and East Europe, and on the continent in general. This represents very valuable and timely political support from the states of West Europe. By the way, the clause on political consultations between the EU and Ukraine has been considerably expanded. All disagreements over mutual cooperation in transportation and sea navigation have been surmounted.

It is impossible to overestimate the importance of initialing this document, said O. Makarenko. We managed to refute the viewpoint of those who were skeptical about cooperation with the EU, as well as Europe's interest in cooperating with us. We have many such people, including those at the top. The fact that this agreement was initialed in its present form gives us the answer to the question: Where should Ukraine move? Toward our past in the East, or our future in the West? We are facing a choice: Either to speed up reforms and take advantage of the West's proposal, which opened its doors to us, or forget about this agreement, put it aside, face the East and move eastward. In my opinion, there are strategical and tactical issues that cannot be confused. From a strategical point of view, Ukraine is by all means a European state. Therefore, according to the Rome Declaration, it has every reason to unite with free and democratic Europe. We understand that this is a lengthy and difficult path, but we have to do it. When Franco died in Spain, nobody thought that Spain would ever become an EU member.... From the viewpoint of tactics and the survival of our state, we should restore economic relations with Russia. However, our goal should be staunch.

[Mostovaya] Do you think that Ukraine—stemming from tactical considerations—should sign the CIS economic pact?

[Makarenko] I participated in every round of negotiations on this issue. The Foreign Ministry and I are convinced that Ukraine should become an associate CIS member, because full membership would delay our EU membership.

[Mostovaya] Well, in general, can Russia let Ukraine out of its sphere of influence?

[Makarenko] Everything depends on how strong willed we are, on how a new government will be committed to our sovereignty and independence. We should think about this already today, on the eve of Supreme Council elections, because a voter should decide with what he is concerned: Either go forward toward Europe or backward toward the empire.

National Affairs

Defense Ministry Denies Radetskyy 'Secret' Crimea Visit

LD0604233594 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2230 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Kiev, 6 Apr—Certain mass media in Russia circulated rumors that Defense Minister Vitalyy Radetskyy and a group of high-ranking officials of Ukraine's military department allegedly paid a secret visit to Crimea. It was also pointed out that a Ukrainian special purpose unit arrived in Crimea on a "mysterious mission."

"Lies, which are persistently circulated by the mass media of Russia, are carefully directed by someone and are needed by someone." This is how the press service of the Defense Ministry of Ukraine refuted this information.

It is true that Lieutenant General Horin, first deputy chief of the general staff of Ukraine's Armed Forces, accompanied by a group of officers, made a planned trip to Crimea on 5 April. He was working at the headquarters of the naval forces of Ukraine, studying the state of affairs, and visiting warships, and he returned to Kiev on the same day.

Defense Minister: 'Permission' Not Needed To Visit Crimea

LD0604142994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1137 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Ukrainian Defense Minister Vitalyy Radetskyy in a national radio interview on Wednesday said he would fly to Crimea on business whenever needed without asking for any local authorization. "Crimea is part of Ukraine and it is the Ukrainian Armed Forces but not the Black Sea Fleet [BSF] which is responsible for its defenses", he said.

The minister's statement follows yesterday's report saying that a group of senior military officials including Radetskyy would descend on Crimea without any prior arrangement with the regional administration or BSF command.

Radetskyy denied both the report and media speculations alleging that he and a group of senior Army officials had flown out to the peninsula to block local airports to prevent Crimean President Yuryy Meshkov's return from Cyprus.

The minister said no armed units had been sent to Crimea and that he himself had worked at his office in Kiev throughout Tuesday.

"Crimea is part of Ukraine, said Radetskyy, as defense minister, I am responsible for defenses of the state as a whole. That is why I do not have to ask for anyone's permission whether or not to fly to Crimea and what I must do there. I take orders from the commander in chief who approves plans for carrying out the tasks according to the country's defense doctrine."

In the meantime, a defense ministry spokesman told INTERFAX-Ukraine that Deputy Chief of Staff Gennadyy Gurin and his aides went on a scheduled trip to Crimea on Tuesday. Among other things, they visited the headquarters of the Ukrainian navy in Sevastopol.

For his part, deputy head of the ministry's press office Anatolyy Murakhovsky described as a blatant lie one report alleging that a Ukrainian commando unit had been sent to the Black Sea Fleet.

Special Military Forces Arrive 'Unexpectedly' in Crimea

AU0604111294 Paris AFP in English 1023 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Kiev, 6 April (AFP)—Ukrainian special forces and senior military officers have arrived unexpectedly in Crimea while its separatist leader Yuryy Meshkov is abroad, officials in his office said on Wednesday.

About 3O men of the interior ministry special forces took up station on a warship after arriving here on Tuesday, ITAR-TASS news agency said. It said top generals from army intelligence, the air force, counter-espionage and the national guard had also come.

The return of Meshkov from a visit to Cyprus had been delayed for eight hours because Turkey had closed its airspace, the agency said, quoting a member of the crew on Meshkov's plane.

The Crimean chief's press attache Igor Azarov told AFP that a link between the delay of the flight home and the appearance of the Ukrainian special forces "cannot be ruled out."

Meshkov held a referendum last month at the same time as Ukraine's general election and won overwhelming backing for closer ties with Russia. Russians comprise 67 percent of the population in Crimea, which the then Soviet leadership transferred to Ukraine in 1954.

Meshkov Speaks of 'Provocation'; Saburov Interviewed

LD0604200994 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] [Announcer] According to a report by our correspondent in Simferopol, Yevgenyy Nurikov, Crimean President Yuryy Meshkov gave a statement on television on the evening of 6 April addressed to the Republic's citizens. Among other things, he said:

[Begin Meshkov recording] We have all been notified that by decree of the president of Ukraine a presidential mission to the Crimean Republic has been set up in the Crimea. I am unable to see this step as anything other than a simple political provocation. [end recording]

[Announcer] Meshkov laid all responsibility for the possible consequences of this provocation on the highest leadership of Ukraine. The Crimean president expressed the hope that new politicians would come to power in Ukraine as a result of future presidential elections with whom the Crimean leadership would be able to hold a constructive dialogue. Yuryy Meshkov added that he did not intend to enter into contact with the Ukrainian president's representative, Valeryy Gorbatov, who had arrived in Simferopol.

Our correspondent, Ilya Kapelevich, managed to contact by telephone Crimean Deputy Prime Minister Yevgenyy Saburov in Simferopol:

[Begin recording] [Kapelevich] Please tell us what has happened and what the situation is now.

[Saburov] Ukraine has broken its own law. It has broken resolutions by the Supreme Soviet of the Crimea and has introduced the institution of governor general to the Crimea. The governor general has said he is going to deal with all of Crimea's external links, that his functions are political, that he is going to be the father of the people, and that he has been called on to lead our dim-witted [malorazumnyy], colonial people to a bright, communist future under the guidance of, so to speak, the Ukrainian leadership. The reaction in the Crimea to this, how should I say, joke of a step is extremely negative.

[Kapelevich] You met Leonid Kravchuk and you thought that it was quite a positive dialogue. Indeed, Leonid Kravchuk reacted positively after the personal meeting. Did he not warn you or notify you at all of his subsequent actions?

[Saburov] The conversation was, of course, quite serious and profound. Some of our economic proposals were given a positive reception straightaway, some with caution. On the whole, there was a lot of fear, I could see, but the conversation was fine. And then right after this new decree appeared.

[Kapelevich] What do you know about the deployment of five Ukrainian Navy warships, of an additional contingent of Ukrainian special forces?

[Saburov] All sorts of rumors are going around and I do not have any reliable information regarding whether Ukrainian soldiers have landed or have not landed. I do not know what the aim was if they did. Maybe just to stretch their legs or inspect something or other? The fact that they did all this when President Meshkov was away is probably just another coincidence—or maybe it is not. On the whole, this manner of operating on the sly is quite widespread here, and although Ukraine is supposedly closer to Europe than Russia, scratch the surface and it is more like Asia. [end recording]

Meshkov Slams Ukrainian 'Coup'

LD0604172694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1644 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS corrrespondent Lyudmila Perkina]

[Text] Moscow, 6 Apr—Crimean President Yuryy Meshkov has described recent events on the Crimean peninsula as a flagrant political provocation by the Ukrainian authorities and an attempt to carry out a coup.

In an exclusive interview to an ITAR-TASS correspondent, he said this evening that "the Ukrainian authorities intend to carry out a partial removal of the president of the Crimea, to restrict his powers, and reduce them to the level of a local administrative officer, thus abolishing the results of the Crimean presidential elections."

According to the Crimean president, this was done deliberately in his absence during a business trip to Cyprus, where Yuryy Meshkov had been dealing with matters of an economic nature.

[Moscow ITAR-TASS in English at 1715 GMT on 6 April carries a similar report, which adds the following at this point: "On Tuesday a large group of Ukrainian top military officials arrived in the Crimea, bringing in more than 500 special task force troops. The simultaneous arrival of ukrainian supreme military, security and interior officials accompanied by deploying additional special task forces in the Crimea has aggravated the situation in the peninsula. Some 30 servicemen of special units of the Ukrainian National guard and the Ukrainian interior Ministry arrived in Sevastopol on board the plane of the deputy head of the Ukrainian Armed forces General Staff. Another 500 special unit servicemen had been settled at a navy school in Sevastopol. The Black Sea Fleet Command announced it was ready to put the fleet on alert should a conflict break out."]

Yuryy Meshkov expressed gratitude to Russia for the fact that it had ensured the flight of his aircraft from Cyprus to the Crimea. Yuryy Meshkov believes that the flight from Nicosia to Simferopol was allowed only with the authority of the Ukrainian president and the Foreign Ministry. Such decisions, he noted, are made solely at the very highest level. As is known, the authorities in Turkey, through whose territory the presidential airliner had to fly, closed their airspace without giving any reason.

The Crimean president is convinced that "all of the efforts of the Ukrainian administration are designed to provoke general indignation, to wreck the second round of elections to the Crimean Supreme Soviet, scheduled for 10 April, and to prevent the victory of the "Russia" bloc, which includes the president, and for whom 80 percent of the people of the peninsula cast their vote." In his opinion, Kiev can see that the process of creating statehood in the Crimea is being completed, but it does not wish to build relations on new economic principles.

In the situation which has been created, Yuryy Meshkov stressed, it is also calculated that the Crimean president would take the events "badly" and adopt tough measures. "However, I am not going to do that. We will be tough, but within the framework of the constitution," Yuryy Meshkov stated.

To a question what his reaction was to Leonid Kravchuk's decree appointing the Ukrainian president's representative in Crimea, Yuryy Meshkov said: "The people are indignant. It could ignite the situation in Crimea, and it is a dangerous situation with unpredictable consequences. This representative is a foreign body. We will not have contacts with him."

The Crimean president sees his main task as preventing a possible explosion, and he intends to do everything he can to ensure this. "The situation is under control, we have the trust of the people and I will rely on it," Yuryy Meshkov said.

Meshkov Spokesman: 'No Coup' in Crimea

AU0604132694 Paris AFP in English 1150 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Kiev, April 6 (AFP)—Both Ukraine and Crimea on Wednesday played down a visit by senior Ukrainian military officers to Crimea while its separatist leader Yuryy Meshkov was abroad, with Meshkov's spokesman stating "no coup d'etat" was underway.

The visit Tuesday had sparked speculation in the Russian press about a possible challenge by Kiev to Crimea's Russian nationalist leader, who defied Ukraine with a referendum on the peninsula last month that won overwhelming backing for closer ties with Russia.

But Viacheslav Lebedev, the head of Mechkov's press service, said Wednesday that "nothing extraordinary was happening in Crimea and that there was no coup d'etat underway."

Vladimir Petenko, an aide to Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, said the visit Tuesday had been "planned" beforehand.

He also said a report by Russian central television saying it was an unexpected visit by some 30 special forces and several generals "did not correspond to reality."

The chief spokesman for the Ukrainian Defense Ministry, Aleksandr Kluban, meanwhile said eight officers of the Ukrainian chief of staff were sent to Sebastopol with "a single general" and that "no member of the special forces" had taken part in the trip.

He said the officers had met with the commander of the Black Sea Fleet, Admiral Eduard Baltin, who he said had accidentally wounded himself a few days ago with his own service weapon.

Some Russian press reports had announced Tuesday that Ukrainian Defense Minister Vitalyy Radetsky himself had gone to Crimea, but the Defense Ministry spokesman said Radetsky and his chief aids had been in meetings all day Tuesday in Kiev.

ITAR-TASS news agency was among those that had said about 30 special interior ministry forces had taken up station on a warship after arriving in the Ukraine on Tuesday. It said top generals from army intelligence, the air force, counter-espionage and the national guard had also come.

The return of Meshkov from a visit to Cyprus had been delayed for eight hours because Turkey had closed its airspace, the agency said, quoting a member of the crew on Meshkov's plane.

Russians comprise 67 percent of the population in Crimea, which the then Soviet leadership transferred to Ukraine in 1954.

Further on Meshkov News Conference

WS0704154794 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1400 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov held a news conference today devoted to the latest events in Crimea's political and economic life. He negatively commented on the introduction of the office of the Ukrainian president's representative in Crimea, describing this step as a political provocation aimed at hindering the second round of elections for the Crimean Supreme Council. Regarding presidential representative Valeriy Horbatov, Yuriy Meshkov said in a televised interview yesterday that Crimean interests are Horbatov's least concern, and that a honest man who cherishes these interests will not shake his hand. At the news conference, Meshkov added that the Republic of Crimea has lost one of its citizens. In a sharp and even offensive tone, Meshkov spoke of the Ukrainian leadership which, in his opinion, prevents the Crimea from dealing with its economy, provokes confrontation, and creates tensions on the peninsula. The presence of military subunits saturated—as he put it—with nationalistic spirit not only does not guarantee Crimean security, but also threatens it.

Many questions from journalists concerned relations between Yuriy Meshkov and Crimean Deputy Prime Minister Yevhen Saburov. Meshkov stated that he corrected Saburov's mistakes by issuing another decree. Effective today, the previous low prices for bread are reinstated in the Crimea. The Crimean president does not share the concern that Saburov might be dismissed, which is being voiced behind the scenes.

Kravchuk: Crimean President's Policy 'Dangerous'

LD0604185994 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] I adhere to the idea that the regions of Ukraine should have the broadest possible economic independence. Ukraine's President Leonid Kravchuk said this at a meeting with journalists at the Market Reforms Press Club in Kiev. As far as political federalization is concerned, the president believes it is premature, although he does not rule out its introduction in future. Today, according to Leonid Kravchuk, this is unrealizable due to objective reasons, and could endanger Ukraine's independence and the progress of the economic reform.

In addition, the president termed as dangerous the policy which the president of Crimea has been conducting of late. Leonid Kravchuk emphasized that not a single decree on economic issues has so far been issued by Yuryy Meshkov and no economic decisions have been made toward that end.

Crimean Official Accuses Kiev of Violating Crimean Law

LD0604174894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1617 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] In an interview with INTERFAX the Crimean president's military adviser Valeryy Kuznetsov declared that Ukraine "has substantially increased its military presence in the Crimea," thus unilaterally violating Crimea's Constitution and decree on the division of authorities between Ukraine and Crimea. These stipulate that all changes in the stationing and strength of military units should be coordinated with the corresponding Crimean structures.

He reported that at present two mechanized brigades had been formed within the 32d Army corps. One of them, about 2000 in number, is deployed in the village of Perevalnoe, the second brigade is in Kerch and Feodosiya. In addition air mobile forces to be stationed in the city of Saki are being formed, said Kuznetsov.

"This is being done without the knowledge of the Supreme Soviet and Crimean president. We have sent a request to Ukraine's Defense Minister and commander of the 32d Army corps and are waiting for an answer," said Kuznetsov.

He also expressed perplexity due to the fact that the Ukrainian Army had taken control of several military installations, some of them crucial to the country's defenses. These are deteriorating due to the absence of appropriate funds in Ukraine. As an example he reported that the training base for the pilots of the aircraft carrier aviation is located in the disposition of Ukrainian servicemen. Meanwhile, Ukraine has no aircraft carriers.

Kravchuk Assails Meshkov Moves, Comments on Emergency

LD0604204694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1919 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Emergency rule should not be imposed in Ukraine unless this is done to prevent bloodshed, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk told the press club of market reforms in Kiev Wednesday.

Answering an INTERFAX-Ukraine question about the Crimean situation, Kravchuk said that "flexible policy should be used in Crimea. We could regard Crimea as an economic experiment provided that the economic autonomy of Crimea was brought into line with the Ukrainian legislation."

Kravchuk said that "thus far, the Crimean president has not issued a single economic decree. Moving the hands on the clock will not make the economy work for reforms." (INTERFAX Note: The Crimea switched to Moscow time as of March 27).

In Kravchuk's view, "the Crimean president flagrantly violates the legislation of both Crimea and Ukraine. Meshkov believes that there is nobody between himself, the people and God. This policy is dangerous and I am waiting for it to come to an end."

In Kravchuk's view, Meshkov's entourage "continuously provokes the Crimean president against Ukraine."

Kravchuk was confident that experience will show the lie in the speculations that Kiev obstructed progress in Crimea.

The president emphasized that regions should enjoy the largest possible economic latitude. He did not rule out the possibility that political institutions might result from an economic experiment in the four Donets-Dnieper regions.

Kravchuk thought, however, that "full-fledged federalization" would be premature because it would threaten the unity of the state.

He said that hopes for a fast solution to all problems was the biggest folly since independence.

Kravchuk thought that there was "no Zvyagilsky government as such because it was the government inherited from Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma. I am not ashamed of this government because it has just started specific economic reforms such as privatization and monetary reform."

Kravchuk thought that the monetary reform was dependent on the availability of a currency stabilization fund and on the help of the International Monetary Fund.

He thought that foreign countries could have provided more aid to Ukraine.

Crimean State of Emergency Denied

LD0604150694 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1245 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Simferopol, Crimea—According to some reports, a slight increase in the contingent of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry's special forces has been observed in Crimea. Representatives of the Republic of Crimea's presidential administration told UNIAN they have information that the Ukrainian president is preparing a directive introducing a state of emergency in Crimea. Interviewed by a UNIAN correspondent on 6 April, Vasyl Rudenko, the official in charge of the Ukrainian president's service for territorial matters, denied rumors of a state of emergency being introduced on the peninsula, said they are totally groundless and are being spread by members of Yuryy Meshkov's team.

Vasyl Rudenko also pointed out that a body representing the Ukrainian president was set up in Crimea and that "under the legislation of Ukraine, relations between the autonomous republic and Ukraine are based on the law delimiting powers between their authorities."

Interviewed by journalists on the same day, Yevgenyy Saburov, Crimean deputy prime minister, did not rule out a possibility of leaving that post in the situation that was arising.

Interviewed by Crimean TV on 5 April, Mykola Mykhalchenko, head of the Ukrainian president's domestic policy service, who now is in Crimea, stated: "Many decrees being passed in Crimea surprise and genuinely distress me. A directive may contain two to three clauses and yet violate not only five to six Ukrainian laws, but also provisions in the Crimean Constitution." This, in his view, is "an example of disrespect for Crimea's own laws and is legal arbitrariness."

The head of the Ukrainian president's domestic policy service also said the main task of the newly appointed representative of the Ukrainian president to Crimea would be encouraging political stabilization in the region and harmonizing political and economic relations between the governments of Crimea and Ukraine. "This is a very important task without which things will be bad both for Ukraine and Crimea," Mykola Mykhalchenko added.

On 6 April, Crimean President Yuryy Meshkov met Valentyn Nedryhaylo, Ukrainian deputy internal affairs minister, who is on a planned working trip to the peninsula.

Presidential Envoy to Crimea Outlines 'Primary Goals'

WS0504173694 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1400 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] On 5 April, Crimean mass media carried a statement by Valeryy Horbatov, newly appointed representative of the Ukrainian president in the Republic of Crimea. Here is an excerpt from that statement.

[Begin Horbatov recording, in Russian] In accordance with the Ukrainian president's edict, I am assuming the duties of the Ukrainian president's permanent representative in the Republic of Crimea. Here, at the beginning, I want to point out that the main, primary goals of this endeavor are political. These goals include peace and political stability in the Crimea; control over the observance of Ukrainian law and the Constitution on Crimean territory, as envisioned by the Law on the Division of Powers Between State Bodies of Ukraine and the Republic of Crimea; control over the observance of Ukraine's commitments to the Republic of Crimea; and representation of the Crimea on the international level. I want to say that I am deeply convinced that there are a sufficient number of educated, experienced, and knowledgeable specialists in the Crimea to carry out concrete economic work. I am positive that we will not have any problems in terms of economics. Our primary task and main goal is to make the combined potential of the Crimea and Ukraine work for the benefit of our people, to eliminate from our lives the still existing ambiguous issues of contention and confrontation, as well as problems of nationalism. Our lives are too complicated to be aggravated further by artificial factors. Let us all unite our efforts for one goal, that is the well-being of our people. Let every person remember that he lives only once. We should live our lives in such a way as not to feel ashamed in the face of those who will come to replace us. I [words indistinct] that we will have no friction with the Crimean government. I am sure that our cooperation will be harmonious and agreeable, because we have a common goal of making the lives of the Crimean people better. [Words indistinct] to attain peace and accord. [end recording]

Crimean Militia Chief Blames Meshkov for 'Legal Nihilism'

WS0604202694 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Crimean Internal Affairs Minister Oleksandr Plyuta has asked the Crimean president to not consider him as a candidate to head the Crimean Ministry of Internal Affairs [MVS] when a new government is formed. This is how the minister reacted to an interview Meshkov held with INTERFAX, in which he accused the Crimean MVS and its leadership of corruption and inability to effectively fight crime.

At a time of distrust, when the press, your team, and you personally are spreading mass fabrications and rumors that the MVS and its leadership are connected with criminals; when legal nihilism and the lack of control came into being under your administration, it is practically impossible to work—thus reads a letter written by Oleksandr Plyuta to Yuryy Meshkov.

Letter Cited on Black Sea Fleet Transferral to Russia

LD0604151694 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1245 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Sevastopol—On 5 April, the Coordinative Council of the Black Sea Fleet Officers' Assemblies received a letter from the Russian Government's interdepartmental commission for social matters relating to servicemen and members of their families. In particular, it expresses concern regarding the fate of the Black Sea Fleet both by ordinary Russians, who are their Motherland's true patriots, and representatives of the Russian Federation's every branch of power.

The letter states that the question of the Black Sea Fleet was addressed at an interdepartmental conference in February, attended by officials from Russia's Social Security Ministry, Foreign Affairs Ministry, and Defense Ministry, whose proposals on a settlement of the issue of the Black Sea Fleet were forwarded to Russian Federation Government Chairman Viktor Chernomyrdin on 9 March. The interdepartmental commission also noted that under the Massandra protocol of 3 August 1993, the preparation of an agreement between Russia and Ukraine was continuing.

The letter points out: "It makes provision for the whole of the Black Sea Fleet and all its infrastructure in Crimea being used by the Russian Federation and having Russia's insignia, with the Russian side making appropriate payments for the half of the Black Sea Fleet, including its infrastructure, that under the previous accords was not to be transferred to Ukraine."

Central Electoral Commission Report on 27 Mar Elections

LD0604201994 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1610 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] A sitting of the Central Electoral Commission for the election of people's deputies of Ukraine and the president of our state took place in Kiev. Our colleague Volodymyr Tatarenko filed this report.

[Tatarenko] Opening the sitting, Ivan Yemets, chairman of the Central Electoral Commission reported on the results of the election of people's deputies of Ukraine, which took place on 27 March.

[Begin Yemets recording] Summing up the results today, I would like to begin by saying that 450 constituencies were set up for holding the elections of people's deputies of Ukraine. On election day, 5,609 candidates for people's deputies were running in the election in these constituencies. In four constituencies, two candidates were included in the ballot papers, [words indistinct], from 11 to 20 candidates in 253 constituencies, and over 20 candidates in 37 constituencies.

Some 38,015,205 people were put on the lists of the electors for the election of people's deputies of Ukraine. Of these, 28,744,296 people, or 75.61 percent, took part in the voting.

The electors were most active in Ternopol Oblast—91.62 percent, Ivano-Frankovsk—88.47 percent, Lvov Oblast—80.56 percent (87.56 percent). Less active were the electors in Kiev—59.74 percent, the Crimea Republic—[words indistinct]. The elections took place in all the 400 [as heard] constituencies. People's deputies were elected in 49 constituencies. Among the newly elected deputies, five are the leaders of collective agricultural enterprises, four are entrepreneurs, six are employees of councils at all levels, four are education workers, three are employees of public organizations, and 16 are people's deputies of the current Supreme Council.

Twelve representatives of the Communist Party, four representatives of the People's Movement of Ukraine [Rukh], two representatives of the Ukrainian Republican Party, two representatives of the Peasants' Party of Ukraine, two representatives of the Socialist Party of Ukraine, two representatives of the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists, and one representative of the Ukrainian Conservative Republican Party were elected people's deputies on 27 March.

As far as nationalities are concerned, 41 Ukrainians, seven Russians, and one Adygey were elected to the Supreme Council. [end recording]

[Tatarenko] The chairman of the Central Electoral Commission also reported that in the 400 constituencies where more than two candidates were running in the election of people's deputies of Ukraine and none was elected, run-off elections were scheduled for 2, 3, 9, and 10 April 1994 in compliance with the election law and by decisions of the district electoral commissions. The run-off elections took place on 2 and 3 April in 34 constituencies, pointed out Ivan Yemets.

The Central Electoral Commission then considered the issue of preparations for the election of the president of Ukraine, which is to take place on 26 June 1994. Viktor (Pohorilko), deputy chairman of the Central Electoral Commission reported on the estimated expenditures for preparing and holding the election of the president of Ukraine.

[Begin (Pohorilko) recording] There are comparisons available. The estimated expenditure for the election of people's deputies was the amount of 1 trillion 154 billion karbovantsi. This sum has not yet been received in full, although the financing was taking place, as a whole, within the appropriate terms. The estimated expenditure for holding the election of the president are somewhat higher, in the amount of 1 trillion and more, about 600 billion karbovantsi—657 billion, or 618 billion karbovantsi according to verified data. [end recording]

[Tatarenko] Proceeding from the report by Ihor Tseluyko, the secretary of the Central Electoral Commission, a resolution was passed on the rules of checking how the requirements of the law on the election of the Ukrainian president are abided by—as far as the collection of signatures in support of a contender for candidate for the president of Ukraine is concerned.

At the sitting of the Central Electoral Commission, they considered and approved the text of recommendations of the commission to district electoral commissions regarding specific issues of preparing and holding the election of the president of Ukraine with the provisions of the new election legislation taken into account.

Having considered the application and other documents submitted by the Socialist Party and the Social Democratic Party, the Central Electoral Commission—in compliance with the law on the election of the president of Ukraine—registered them as those who expressed their intention to nominate their candidate to run in the election of the president of Ukraine.

Some other issues connected with the preparations for the election of the president were also considered.

Parties' Reactions to First-Round Election Results Cited

WS0704093194 Kiev RADA in Ukrainian 27 Mar 94 p 1

[Report attributed to UNIAN]

[Text] On 29 March, Ivan Yemets, head of the Central Electoral Commission, held a press conference on the results of the elections to the Ukrainian Supreme Council. He confirmed the following:

The elections took place in all 450 electoral districts. In the first round, 49 deputies were elected, of which 11 are engineers, 13 education system workers, three lawyers and economists.

In terms of party membership, the break-down of deputies is as follows: 12 members of the Communist Party of Ukraine, four members of the Rukh, two from the Ukrainian Republican Party, Ukrainian Peasants' Party, and Socialist Party each, while other 24 were independent deputies.

In the words of Ivan Yemets, most of the parties retain their positions in the second round of elections. In the first place, this applies to Communists, Socialists, and national democrats. Ivan Yemets expressed confidence that the "second round will give Ukraine a new legislature."

Asked how many deputies are required to make the new Ukrainian parliament work, Ivan Yemets responded: The present legislation has some discrepancies regarding this question. This is why it will clear up later whether 226 or 301 deputies will be necessary."

Speaking on the Crimean referendum, Ivan Yemets declared that the Central Electoral Commission had nothing to do with it. This is solely the business of the Crimean president. It was announced that most of the electoral commissions set the second-round election for 10 April. In this connection, Ivan Yemets called on the press representative to explain to the population the need to elect a new parliament.

Rukh Garnered 12 Percent

Of 49 deputies elected on 27 March, 11 represent the Rukh or were supported by it. They include the organization's activists Vyacheslav Chornovil, Les Tanyuk, Mykhaylo Kosiv, Yaroslav Kendzyor, Serhyy Holovatyy, Andryy Mostyskyy—all were members of the previous Supreme Council.

The Election Results Were Fabricated

Levko Lukyanenko, honorary chairman of the Ukrainian Republican Party [URP] and cochairman of the Democratic Bloc "Ukraine," noted: "The outcome of this election is not the result of the electorate's preferences, but the result of the struggle conducted by the party in power with democratic forces. We are dealing here not with the real popular choice, but the documentation of the actual balance of forces. The party in power used its structures and exerted an immense influence on the electorate, resorting to intimidation, forgery, and blatant violation of the electoral law. In many places, fearful of losing their jobs, people refused to be observers. The electorate is scared, in particular, the part that we counted on. The elections took place in an atmosphere of a flagrant violation of law and intimidation," Levko Lukyanenko emphasized. The cochairman of the Democratic Bloc "Ukraine" cited the following facts: In Lugansk Oblast, instead of distributing ballot papers, they made lists indicating who voted for whom. In Tarashchanskyy Electoral District, where the URP's candidate Petro Borsuk ran, a truck crashed into Borsuk's car in the evening of 27 March. After the truck's driver was hospitalized with a concussion, rumor spread that it was Borsuk himself who was in the hospital.

Asked to comment on the defeat of the URP leader, Mykhaylo Horyn, in the election delivered by Stepan Khmara, Levko Lukyanenko noted that there are two reasons for this. First, some disservice was done by discontent with Horyn's brother, Mykola, who is head of the Lvov Oblast Council. Second, Stepan Khmara deliberately ran in the same district with Horyn to demonstrate his hostility to the URP, and used all of his eloquence to deceive uneducated social groups. "However, Mykhaylo Horyn," Levko Lukyanenko noted, "was not knocked off his feet. He still has his energy, and will continue to work for Ukraine."

Negative Opinion

Serhyy Holovatyy, the newly elected deputy and head of the Ukrainian Legal Foundation, spoke critically about the results of the first-round election to the Supreme Council. He stated that "presidential representatives, who have already inflicted heavy damages on Ukraine," will sneak through rural electoral districts. In his words, the Ukrainian people will feel the negative consequences of their choice for a long time to come.

Communists' Performance [subhead]

In the headquarters of the Socialist Party of Ukraine, we were told that their candidate, Oleksandr Bozhko, qualified for the second round in the Pecherskyy Constituency of Kiev City. However, the Socialists declined to say how many of their candidates made it to the second round of the election, asking us to wait until official announcement of the election

In the headquarters of the Communist Party of Ukraine, we were told that the party's 173 candidates won in the first round in 22 Ukrainian oblasts, including Oleh Hrachov, Oleksandr Bondarchuk, and Volodymyr Martynyuk.

Performance of the Greens

The 31 members of the Green Party that were put forward by working teams, and not by the party, were not successful. In particular, the party's leader Vitalyy Kononov, an independent candidate at the Gagarin Electoral District, did not get to the second round of the elections.

"New Ukraine" and Liberals]

The Secretariat of the "New Ukraine" said that their two members, Volodymyr Hrynyov and Volodymyr Filenko, who ran from Kharkov, qualified for the second-round election. According to the party's Donetsk-based organization, four Liberal Party members, including its vice president Yuryy Baskakov, entered the second round.

Mass Agitation in the Crimea

The Crimean National Movement Organization [OKNR], the Crimean organization of the URP, the Ukrainian Civilian Congress of the Crimea, and the Committee "Crimea With Ukraine" made public a declaration emphasizing serious violations of law in the elections that have just taken place. The "statement by Yuryy Meshkov, the highest official in the Republic, made on the eve of the election" is called one of the grossest violations. The documents also points to the fact that according to preliminary findings, the poll did not result in an overwhelming approval—it was ignored by the Crimean Tatars, a considerable part of Ukrainians, and representatives of other nationalities. "We are confident," the declaration's authors stated, "that the poll's results will be fabricated." In this connection, the OKNR and other Crimean pro-Ukrainian organizations announced their intention of coordinating their activities regarding the issues of "preserving Ukraine's territorial integrity."

Leaders of the Ukrainian Civilian Congress, the Committee "Crimea With Ukraine", and the OKNR held a press conference, where Ihor Banakh, deputy chairman of the Committee "Crimea With Ukraine," discussed "numerous violations during the Crimean election." In his words, there were cases in which one individual could vote for several candidates. In one of the electoral districts of the Krasnoperekopsk District, the militia detained a group of people encouraging people to vote for the "Russia" Bloc. Members of electoral commissions removed posted information on pro-Ukrainian candidates. Ihor Banakh expressed his personal hope that official Kiev will pursue tougher policies with regard to manifestations of the Crimean separatism.

Nationalist Leader Assesses Elections, Possible Blocs

WS0604080494 Lvov MOLODA HALYCHYNA in Ukrainian 2 Apr 94 p 1

[Interview with Stepan Khmara, chairman of the Ukrainian Conservative Republican Party, by Viktor Shapoval; place and date not given: "Stepan Khmara Was Elected to the Parliament. It Is Cloudy in Ukraine"]

[Text] [Shapoval] First of all, let me congratulate you for your victory. What was your first thought, when you learned the results of voting?

[Khmara] I always believed in victory. I did not have any doubts about it, and I was simply interested in numbers. I would like to thank all the people, particularly, my voters, who trusted, supported, and helped me during the electoral campaign. Although we did not have money for the campaign, we proved that it is possible to win without it. It once again came to me that our people are able to achieve a lot. Without the help of the people, I would not have had the chance of dealing with politics. Despite all the efforts undertaken by our enemies, and despite the incompetence of authorities, the voters made their choice.

[Shapoval] What was the reason behind your success?

[Khmara] I would not like to boil everything down to politics. What led me to politics and always determines my behavior is the desire to leave a humane trace on this sinful earth. I want to do good for our Ukraine and my people. The truth has won. It is said in the Bible: You will find the truth and the truth will set you free. People link Khmara to decency, honesty, and diligence. Khmara and the voters have become a whole. A deputy must always remember that a legislative seat is not his property, but the voters'.

[Shapoval] You are often accused of populism. How would you respond to these accusations?

[Khmara] What does populism mean? If populism means to be with the people and defend their interests, I will always endorse it. After all, only the support of the people allows me to be accomplished in politics.

[Shapoval] In the elections, you confirmed your renown and achieved success. Viktor Pynzenyk and Ihor Yukhnovskyy also won. Is it possible for you to cooperate?

[Khmara] When Viktor Pynzenyk was in the government, I always tried to cooperate and help him. Unfortunately, this did not yield any results. I am skeptical toward him. This man fulfills the will of people who are behind the scenes.

Ihor Rafayilovych [Yukhnovskyy] is a master of dodging. Once, 12 people's deputies had a bitter conversation with him. We seriously warned him against destructive activities. This relates to [Ukrainian President] Leonid Kravchuk's decree on commodity bonds totalling $10 billion. Ihor Rafayilovych zealously defended the decree. He consciously fulfills someone else's will.

[Shapoval] How do you assess the results of the first round of the elections?

[Khmara] When it comes to Halychyna, I am very pleased: There are already five, perhaps six, people in Khmara's team in Lvov, Ternopil, and Ivano-Frankivsk Oblasts. This is a serious force. The second round is still ahead, however, in which our people will stand pretty good chances, not only in Halychyna, but also in other regions.

[Shapoval] Do you want to form your own group in the parliament?

[Khmara] Yes, I want to form a group of hardworking, decent, and dedicated people who would resist any temptations. A group of 20-30 single-minded people can significantly influence the political atmosphere. Now, it can be said that such a group will exist. Our expectations have partially come true. One cannot think of a party or faction majority—which is often voiced by [Rukh leader] Vyacheslav Chornovil—without irony, because those people are so polarized, and their principles are not defined. Vyacheslav himself has not always been consistent either. He has rather played the role of a destructive politician in both Lvov and Kiev. Rukh can only blab. Who are these people? What are they able to do?

Of course, the situation in Odessa and Donbass elicits certain concern. A powerful industrial Mafia, which has been enjoying the most favored status granted by President Leonid Kravchuk, still remains there. How could he [Kravchuk] allow for these polls? Our president is completely unable to perform constructive state- building work. The elections of the Crimean president were absolutely illegal. Instead of annulling the decree on elections and pronouncing them illegal, President Leonid Kravchuk solemnly received the illegal president. For this alone, Leonid Kravchuk should be removed from power and brought to account.

[Former Prime Minister] Leonid Kuchma, who also was elected deputy, is another person very dangerous for Ukraine. He could be easily neutralized, and I have recently offered my services with this regard to [Supreme Council Chairman] Ivan Plyushch. I heard Kuchma saying that Lobov is a man he trusts. Leonid Kuchma offered to Lobov the office of Cabinet of Ministers minister which is one of the key offices. Currently, Lobov lives in France. He stole what he could and left the country. I demanded that a criminal case be opened against him, to recover at least a part of the money he stole. People should know of this, since Leonid Kuchma is running for the presidential seat.

Generally, I would like to see as many decent people with common sense in the new parliament as possible.

[Shapoval] The second round of the elections is approaching. What would you like to say to the voters?

[Khmara] Let them follow the people about whose decency they are completely sure. If they trust Khmara, let them vote for I. Kalynets, D. Chobit, O. Hudyma, and V. Dzera. I have political experience, knowledge, and analytical skills, which have been confirmed in practice. I, therefore, want the voters to do precisely that. It is not necessary for Khmara; it is necessary for Ukraine.

Kuchma on Elections, Economic Issues

944K1032A Donetsk AKTSENT in Russian 5 Apr 94 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Leonid Kuchma, president of the Ukrainian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, by unidentified reporter; recorded by V. Zhilin: "It Is Impossible To Cooperate With Today's Authorities. What They Are Doing Is Not for the Good of the People"]

[Text] Last week Leonid Kuchma, president of the Ukrainian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (USPP), made a brief visit to Donetsk. He met with members of the oblast association of leaders of enterprises and organizations. This visit from the ex-prime minister of Ukraine was no accident: On 14 April there will be a special congress of the USPP at which the critical condition of our Republic's economy and industry will be discussed.

On that same day Leonid Kuchma met with journalists and answered their questions.

In particular, the AKTSENT correspondent asked Kuchma the following questions:

[AKTSENT] The present elections have shown that it is practically impossible to win without a powerful political organization. Will the present congress of industrialists and entrepreneurs not be the congress where a new political party is born?

[Kuchma] I agree with you that without a strong party it is impossible to expect anything significant in the future. When I visited the Baltic countries, Estonia, and Lithuania, I was convinced of this once again because Brazauskas himself came to power precisely because his party had a majority in parliament. This is also why they could form their own government. In that kind of situation, it is possible to speak of something serious regarding questions of reforming the economy. But if there is no support in parliament, all your good intentions will remain on paper. I agree that we should think seriously about a party, but we are not ready for this yet. We do not plan to discuss this question at the congress.

[AKTSENT] How do you evaluate the current makeup of the parliament today?

[Kuchma] The tendencies of the new parliament are not very promising so far. It is quite probable that, on the one hand, the parliament will be too far to the right and, on the other, too far to the left. Of course, you know my viewpoint—people should not be included in the new parliament according to their political convictions, they should not be representatives of any particular party, but they should be people who can professionally work not so much in politics as in the economy, which today is on its last legs and is not working.

[AKTSENT] Leonid Danilovich, you know that in Donetsk and Lugansk Oblasts a referendum was held on a number of questions with which you are familiar. If you had voted in the Donbass how would you have responded to them?

[Kuchma] My position on these issues is known. I have always been open and was one of the initiators of the alliance with both Russia and the CIS states, and I stand on that. I am not recanting even now. Regarding the Russian language, my position is this: I think there should be one state language, Ukrainian, but there should be two official languages—Russian and Ukrainian. What is an official state language? It is the language of diplomacy and laws. Everything else is in official languages, taking into account local conditions and peculiarities. I also support the land-federative structure. I am a proponent of having obligations and responsibility regarding many issues shifted to the regions...

[AKTSENT] Does Ukraine need an industry that lives for itself and works for itself?

[Kuchma] I have said and will say that we do not need that kind of industry, but we are not to blame for this, since we received fragments from the overall system of the former Soviet Union. It is impossible to restructure it in a single day. Structural rearrangement of industry takes time and money. At the same time we cannot simply close down the enterprises and throw the people out in the street...

[AKTSENT] And if the enterprises are not making it?

[Kuchma] Declare them bankrupt. I have expressed my opinion about this position many times in parliament. An analysis of the enterprises must be conducted in each branch. Enterprises that are operating at a loss or are unprofitable must be closed or reprofiled. Today the following situation has been created at many plants and mines in our country—here it is better to pay them the average wage than to pay to have them operate some how and produce products for which there is no demand. Today I have already given you the example of the Donbass. Here the coal industry was headed toward closure, dying out. It was planned to operate at a loss since immense coal deposits had been discovered in the Kuzbass where they use the open-pit method. But now coal is your future. But it takes investments to construct a modern new mine. Again I emphasize that we will not survive alone, the more so in our enclosed space.

[AKTSENT] Do you have a program you are planning to bring to the new parliament as a people's deputy of the new convocation?

[Kuchma] It is practically impossible to cooperate with our present executive branch because it does what it does not for the good of the people but for the opposite. I have already spoken about its program previously...

[AKTSENT] Still what would you suggest as immediate steps to emerge from the crisis?

[Kuchma] I think that today we must solve the problems that lie on the surface. Namely, we must finally determine which enterprises Ukraine needs and which it does not. This has to be done in order to understand who is who. Second, of course, we cannot change the situation without working capital. How can we solve this problem? Already, that is a different question. Third, is currency regulation. It too must be solved immediately since now the fixed exchange rate of the karbovanets to the dollar makes it so that all our products are exported at a loss. And, undoubtedly, we must consider a number of other questions as well, including taxation.

[AKTSENT] When speaking in parliament, you have frequently repeated the question: Where is Ukraine going? So where is Ukraine going today?

[Kuchma] Do you mean to ask what we are now building? I do not think there is either pure socialism or pure capitalism in the world today. Still capital has taken various of our achievements from the former Soviet Union and successfully applied them at home. Including a planned economy—precisely planned.

[AKTSENT] There has now been talk about the inexpediency of holding presidential elections. What is your opinion?

[Kuchma] There is a law here and the law must be obeyed. Therefore, the presidential elections must take place. Here I fully share the opinion of Ivan Stepanovich Plyushch. There are no grounds for not holding them.

[AKTSENT] Ukraine also has an acute problem of nonpayments. Is there a program for this?

[Kuchma] There is only one way out—offsetting through bills of exchange and determining which enterprises are bankrupt, with all the consequences that ensue from this.

[AKTSENT] How do you envisage the mechanism for the formation of the budget?

[Kuchma] It must be formed from below, that is, begin with the regions so that they are interested in the distribution of productive forces. Now we have everything the other way around—the main thing is not who works and how, but that everything is divided up per capita. This approach is absolutely incorrect. Here I think we must have a single principle for all: He who works better must also live better.

[AKTSENT] Radio Liberty broadcast a report to the effect that there were various violations in the electoral precincts of your district, where you ran as a candidate people's deputy and won a victory. What do you have to say?

[Kuchma] I never put out a single additional leaflet or uttered a single offensive word against my opponents. At the same time my opponents brought in mountains of various kinds of paper "garbage" and distributed it throughout the district. It would have been better for them to give notebooks and textbooks to the school children than to get involved in something like that.

Further Decline in Production in Dnipropetrovsk

WS0604090794 Kiev KIEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 1 Apr 94 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Drop in Production Continues"]

[Text] According to the Dnipropetrovsk Oblast Statistics Department, the volume of production in January-March 1994 decreased by 45 percent compared with the corresponding period last year. The decline in production particularly affected construction materials, black metallurgy, and machine-building. More than half of enterprises in the oblast reduced the production of consumer goods.

There are, however, certain positive aspects of the production slump, as ATN admits. Industrial enterprises emitted to atmosphere 18 percent less harmful substances compared with the parallel period last year.

Compulsory Certifation of Exports To Begin 1 Jul

LD0604110294 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1000 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Compulsory certification of output is being introduced in Ukraine from 1 July 1994. Any goods designated for export must have a certificate authenticating their quality and bearing the relevant safety and ecology requirement. Ukraine's biggest trading partner, Russia, has already undertaken compulsory certification of export goods since the beginning of this year.

Ministries Demand Cancellation of Nuclear Directive

LD0604110194 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 2000 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Kiev—As UNIAN has already reported, the president of Ukraine on 23 February this year signed a directive "On urgent steps to develop nuclear power engineering and complete the nuclear fuel cycle in Ukraine." It provides for the launching of four new reactors, relaunching the second generating unit at the Chernobyl nuclear power station, which caught fire in 1991, and completing the nuclear fuel cycle. The directive caused disquiet among Ukraine's Ministry for Protection of the Population from the Chernobyl Aftermath, the Health Ministry, the Environmental Protection Ministry, and the State Committee for Safety Inspection in Atomic Energy, who have demanded that the directive be canceled and further work be done on it.

On 5 April, a news conference was held to announce the institution of a public committee uniting the Ukrainian Supreme Council's Standing Committee for Matters of the Chernobyl Accident, the National Commission for the Protection of the Population against Radiation under the Ukrainian Supreme Council, Ukraine's Greenpeace, the Green Party of Ukraine, and the Ukrainian Peace Council. An appeal to Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk was signed, demanding the invalidation of this directive, which, in the view of lawyers, breaks the law, violates the human right to ecological, radiation, and nuclear safety, and does not comply with the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights.

Interviewed by a UNIAN correspondent, Serhyy Kurakin, representative of the Ukrainian Greens Party, said the priority development of nuclear power engineering, as recorded in this directive, would mean greater capital investment in the industry without yielding the desired result.

Deputy Blames Energy Industry Crisis on Poor Management

WS0604090594 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0800 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Dangerous plans of nuclear industry officials must be put to an end; that was the conclusion made by representatives of public, political, and [word indistinct] organizations gathered at a round table meeting initiated by Green Peace during a press conference for national and foreign journalists. During the conference, the situation and problems of the nuclear power engineering were analyzed. It was noted that its development, according to the old concept of fuel and energy complex management, will not only fail to improve the situation in [words indistinct], but will also deepen economic disproportions and result in unjustified losses of natural resources. Deputy Volodymyr [name indistinct], member of the legislative subcommission for scientific, social, and legal issues related to the Chernobyl catastrophe and nuclear power engineering, pointed out the parochial attitude toward problems of power engineering and narrow-sighted industry management system among factors that aggravated the condition of power engineering sector in 1993-94.

Belarus

FRY Foreign Minister Pleased With Outcome of Visit

LD0604131494 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0300 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] My visit to Minsk has confirmed that Yugoslavia has a good and reliable friend in Belarus. Soon after sanctions are lifted our two countries will become close partners in economic cooperation, declared FRY Foreign Minister Vladislav Jovanovic, on the outcome of his visit to Belarus. The Yugoslav minister said that during his negotiations with the Belarus leadership readiness was expressed for speedy establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. We also reached agreement on drawing up documents envisioning accelerated development of cooperation in the economic sphere. We expressed mutual interest in the speediest settlement of the Yugoslav crisis.

Butrus-Ghali Meets Kebich, Hryb; Pledges Chernobyl Aid

WS0604133194 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1200 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Report by Anatol Awcharenka]

[Excerpts] The first half of Butrus-Ghali's second day in Belarus was devoted to Chernobyl problems. The UN secretary general and members of his delegation began their working day quite early. At 1000, they met with Deputy Prime Minister Ivan Kenik, chairman of the State Committee for Problems of Consequences of the Chernobyl Catastrophe. Different kinds of assistance rendered to Belarus by the world community were discussed. Both sides also spoke about the coordination of efforts to study and alleviate the radiological, medical, socioeconomic, ecological, and psychological consequences of the Chernobyl disaster. In my opinion, Mr. Butrus-Ghali very precisely pointed out that Chernobyl is a symbol of both international solidarity and security.

The secretary general was then received by Belarusian Prime Minister Vyachaslaw Kebich and Supreme Soviet Chairman Mecheslaw Hryb. International experts drafted projects for developing industries in the Chernobyl zone, and this issue was also discussed in the course of the meetings. Belarus requested that the United Nations allocate membership fees to finance those projects. [passage omitted]

Mr. Butrus-Ghali was startled by the fact that although the disaster had occurred on Ukraine's territory, 70 percent of the radioactive fallout affected Belarus. One in every five Belarusian citizens is suffering from the aftermath of the Chernobyl accident. Meanwhile, the corresponding figure in Ukraine is one in every 30 citizens.[passage omitted]

The secretary general underlined: Belarus will receive my support so that the issue of Chernobyl is not removed from the UN agenda.[passage omitted]

Slavic Assembly Terms UN World 'Gendarme'

WS0704092794 Minsk BTK Television Network in Belarusian 1800 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] The Slavic Assembly Belaya Rus wrote a letter to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali who is staying in Minsk in which it expressed its concern over the fact that the UN is being transformed from a peacekeeping organization to a world judge and gendarme. It has become common for the UN to use a dual approach toward resolving international conflicts, the letter reads. The UN is becoming a conductor of wishes of a narrow group of states with the United States at the top. The Slavic Assembly demanded that violent interference in the life of the peoples of Yugoslavia be halted. The letter [passage indistinct] an aggression against Iraq and murder of Somalia citizens were initiated. [words indistinct] Military interference with the affairs of some states and indulgence to other states become key mechanisms of the UN activities.

People's Accord Announces Leader's Bid for Presidency

WS0604133894 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1105 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] The Party of People's Accord has officially announced that it is going to register its Chairman Henadz Karpenka as a candidate for president. Henadz Karpenka is a deputy to the Supreme Soviet, the mayor of Molodechno (Minsk oblast), and a corresponding member of the Belarusian Academy of Sciences. His electoral team is headed by well-known Belarusian playwright Alyaksey Dudaraw. It is planned to collect no less than 100,000 signatures in support of Karpenka's candidacy.

CIS Executive Secretary Not To Seek Presidency

LD0604181794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1519 GMT 6 Apr 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature No. 66: Compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] The CIS Executive Secretary Ivan Korotchenya said in an interview with INTERFAX on Wednesday that he has no intention of running for the presidential post in Belarus. Korotchenya explained his reluctance to ballot with the fact that "currently the most important for him is to focus attention on work in the executive secretariat."

"Undoubtedly, I am grateful to those who trust me as a potential head of state, but I am convinced that the most prepared man for this post among the candidates is the present Belarussian Prime Minister Vyacheslav

Kebich," Korotchenya said. In his opinion, Kebich, "an experienced manager and predictable politician, pursuing the consecutive policy oriented to an economic union with Russia, has big chances to head the country."

Korotchenya said that tonight he leaves for Moscow to meet with Chairman of the Council of Heads of CIS States Boris Yeltsin. It is expected that the two men will specify the draft agenda of the Moscow summit scheduled for 15 April. Besides, Korotchenya plans to report to Yeltsin about the fulfillment of his order to prepare the Moscow summit of presidents of Azerbaijan, Armenia and Russia on the settlement on the Karabakh crisis. IF Note: As a member of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly's peacekeeping group, Korotchenya visited Baku, Yerevan and Nagorno-Karabakh from 31 March to 2 April. In his words, "the leaders of both sides involved in the conflict agreed in principle" to discuss the document on ceasefire and to hold talks on the final settlement of the Karabakh problem.

The subject of peacekeeping efforts of the CIS parliamentarians was raised at a meeting between Korotchenya and UN Secretary-General Butrus-Ghali on Wednesday. Butrus-Ghali proposed to register the Commonwealth Charter in the UN Secretariat in the next few days. Ghali said that this will enable "all countries of the international community to learn better the principles, goals and tasks of the CIS, and its structure." Ghali linked the need for the registration with recent giving the observer status at the UN General Assembly to the CIS.

Commenting on the results of the talks, Korotchenya informed about the agreement "to establish stable business contacts between coordinating structures of the Commonwealth and the UN Secretariat." In Korotchenya's opinion, "Butrus-Ghali's proposals open good opportunities for studying and using the experience of the UN in the activities of the CIS."

Christian Democrats Picket Russian Embassy, Urge Withdrawal

WS0604151994 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1105 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] On 6 April, the Belarusian Christian Democratic Party held a protest outside the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Minsk. The protesters presented an appeal to the embassy demanding that Russia withdraw its troops from Belarusian territory and "stop blackmailing Belarus economically." The protesters' posters also denounced plans to create a common ruble zone within the CIS.

Some 72 Percent Said To Support Private Land Ownership

WS0704084394 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1950 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] According to the opinion poll conducted by the Independent Institute of Socioeconomic and Political Research, assisted by the U.S. International Center for Support of Private Entrepreneurship, 72.4 percent of those polled consider it admissble to introduce private land ownership in Belarus, while 26.6 percent oppose this. Some 20.3 percent believe that land can be owned by foreigners; 78.2 percent are opposed.

Leadership Insists on Disbanding Anticorruption Body

WS0704092994 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1950 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] According to BELAPAN, in the office of Alyaksandr Lukashenka, chairman of the Supreme Soviet Provisional Anticorruption Commission, the door lock has been changed and the door itself sealed. This was done because the Belarusian leadership believes that the commission has fulfilled its task. Speaking at a conference of law enforcement agency chiefs, Supreme Soviet Chairman Mechyslaw Hryb, in particular, pointed out that the work of the commission had in fact been completed. However, Alyaksandr Lukashenka has a different opinion. Dmitriy Bulakhov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet Legislative Commission, voiced his concern in an interview with BELAPAN, saying that there can be attempts to stop financing the Anticorruption Commission, close its mouth, and hold activities. The only thing that the commission has so far managed to accomplish is Stanislaw Shushkevich's resignation from the post of Supreme Soviet chairman. The resignation was prompted by claims that Shushkevich had failed to pay several hundred rubles to the government's construction and repairs department.

Moldova

Tiraspol Militiamen Join Military Militia Battalion

AU0704082094 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1857 GMT 1 Apr 94

[Text] Tiraspol, BASAPRESS, 1/4/1994—Informed sources from the Russian Defense Ministry told BASAPRESS that is has been recently decided to create a military militia battalion comprising several hundreds people in the 14th Army. The former Tiraspol militiamen are now joining the battalion. According to local observers, the force used by the Dniester ministries of interior and security as well as the difference in salaries made many people quit the Ministry of Interior and join this battalion.

Negotiations With Russia on 14th Army Resume

AU0604082794 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 0400 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] A new round of Moldovan-Russian negotiations regarding the status of the 14th [Russian] Army began yesterday in Chisinau. The talks were attended, in the status of invited party, by the representatives of the self-proclaimed Dniester Moldovan Republic. Our correspondent reports that the observers of the CSCE mission to the Republic of Moldova are not attending the negotiations.

According to a statement made by the leader of the Moldovan delegation, Anatol Taranu, the previous rounds resulted in the elaboration of a number of documents that could serve as a solid base for the establishment of the status of the 14th Army.

The positions of Moscow and Chisinau diverge regarding the deadline of the pullout of that army, Radio Moscow reports, adding that the Russian party considers that the pullout could be carried out solely after the Dniester region is granted a special status. According to the same source, the leadership of the secessionist [Dniester] republic fears that Moldova might eventually unite with Romania.

According to a report broadcast by Radio Moldova, the situation of the [Ilie] Ilascu group [imprisoned by the authorities of the Dniester republic] has become alarming. Ilie Ilascu has been put under an informational blockade, as he is not allowed to receive newspapers or possess a radio set, while his wife has been again denied access to the prison. According to the same source, the personal safety of the other four members of his group is endangered, as other detainees have access to their prison cells and they are assaulting them. The health condition of the entire Ilascu group is also precarious.

Eighth Round of Talks Concluded

AU0704095794 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1900 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Report by correspondent Cristian Nita from Chisinau]

[Text] The eighth round of Moldovan-Russian negotiations on the statute of the 14th [Russian] Army, and on ways and terms for this Army's withdrawal from the territory of the Republic of Moldova was concluded in Chisinau today.

This afternoon, the leaders of the two delegations held a news conference. I would like to mention that this is the first news conference since the beginning of negotiations between the Republic of Moldova and the Russian Federation on the issue of the 14th Army's withdrawal. Summing up the results of this eighth round of negotiations, the leaders of the delegations, that is, Ambassadors Anatol Taranu and Vladimir Kitayev noted the importance of continuing negotiations and emphasized the constructive attitude of both sides toward finding optimal solutions regarding the terms of the 14th Army's withdrawal. The sides appreciated the presence in the negotiations of the representatives of the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic as a favorable element. The leaders of the two delegations announced that they have initialed the draft accords on granting judicial assistance on issues connected with the temporary stationing of the 14th Army on the territory of the Republic of Moldova as well as on granting social guarantees and pensions to former soldiers and members of their families.

Military experts signed a document drafted jointly on technical requirements for the withdrawal of the 14th Army and on the issue regarding the transportation of the military property of the Russian Federation from Moldova.

Unfortunately, the sides could not overcome disagreements regarding the terms for the withdrawal of the 14th Army. The sides presented new variations to Article No. 2 of the basic accord, which includes the withdrawal of the 14th Army and agreed to continue discussions on this issue during the ninth round of negotiations to be held in mid-May in Moscow.

In connection with the presence of the CSCE observers in these negotiations, Ambassador Vladimir Kitayev declared that Russia respects the activities of this international body, but since it has not been specified how the negotiations should be followed, the Russian side considers it reasonable to inform the CSCE at the end of each round of negotiations.

Ambassador Anatol Taranu stressed that on this issue the Republic of Moldova continues as before to express the opinion that the presence of the CSCE observers in the negotiation would make a constructive contribution to the unfolding of the respective negotiations.

Regarding the synchronization of the withdrawal of the 14th Army with the granting of a special legal status to Dniester, the Russian side continued to support this idea. The leader of the Moldovan delegation, however, expressed the view that if this condition were accepted, the negotiations would virtually have not made one single step forward. Therefore, it would be reasonable to reactivate the previous four-party mechanism to solve this problem.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Arrives in Japan for First Official Visit

LD0604131894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1117 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Tokyo 6 April, TASS—President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev arrived on his first official visit to Japan on Wednesday.

He is to have an audience with Emperor Akihito and meet Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, parliamentarians and businessmen. A joint declaration and a number of bilateral documents are to be signed.

Talks will focus on economic cooperation and Kazakhstan will request Japanese aid to help overcome the aftermath of nuclear tests at the Semipalatinsk range and to conduct irrigation work to save the disappearing Aral Sea, TASS learned from a spokesman of Nazarbayev.

International issues, including the granting to Japan of the status of a permanent member of the UN Security Council, will also be discussed.

Says Eurasian Union 'Depends On' CIS States

LD0704102994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0932 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS-KAZTAG]

[Text] Tokyo 7 April, TASS—Kazakhstan stands for creating a unified economic space of all former Soviet republics in which, as "it is taking place in the European Community, the states would help each other, and our similar economies would carry out reforms jointly," Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev, who is in Japan on an official visit, said on Thursday.

"I have already made a relevant proposal for creating the economic union, and now it largely depends on the leaders of the Commonwealth of Independent States," Nazarbayev said at a meeting in the federation of Japan's economic organisations, refferring to his idea of an Euro-Asian union.

He believes that the new structure can "help CIS states at least during modernization of their economies." Goods, which are produced now in the former Soviet Union, are competitive only on the domestic markets of CIS because of their low quality."

Nazarbayev pointed out that he had always stood for economic integration, and expanding of relations but not for their elimination, which finally led to the economic collapse in the former Soviet Union. "What the politicians made was like cutting off arms and legs from a living organism, lives of millions of people become worse," he said.

Two years ago, the creation of the Commonwealth of Independent States was essential to promote a relatively peaceful separation within the framework of the former Soviet Union, though some states failed to avoid victims, according to Nazarbayev.

Nazarbayev Decree on Tax on Livestock

LD0604212394 Almaty KAZTAG in Russian 1300 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Decree by Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev on taxes on agricultural livestock in private ownership]

[Text] In accordance with the law of the Republic of Kazakhstan of 10 December 1993: On temporary delegation of powers to the president of the Republic of Kazakhstan and heads of local administration. With the aim of further developing livestock breeding in the private sector, providing it with forage reserve, and a network of procurement and processing plants, I decree:

1. To set the annual tax on agricultural livestock in private ownership irrespective of its age, on the basis [of the data] on 1 December of the previous year amounting to:

	A year, per head, in tenge
Cattle	3.5
Pigs	1.5
Sheep and Goats	0.5
Horses	3.5
Camels	3.5

That is to be paid by individuals, who own the above-mentioned livestock.

2. All the money that has been received from taxes on agricultural livestock in private sector to be sent to the local budget.

3. The Ministry of Finances of the Republic of Kazakhstan is due to elaborate and submit for consideration by the tax bodies a regulation and the dates of tax charging and transferring them to the local budget.

4. Heads of local administrations should support private farmers in purchasing livestock and game saplings, forage, construction materials, and allocate plots of land under pastures and hay fields.

5. The State Committee for Statistics and Forecasting of the Republic of Kazakhstan should set yearly and half-yearly accountability on the number of heads of livestock and animal husbandry output in the private sector.

6. The above decree has the force of law and functions until the relevant amendments to the law of the Republic of Kazakhstan on the tax system in the Republic of Kazakhstan are made.

7. The Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Kazakhstan is to submit to the Supreme Council of the Republic blueprints of the relevant legislative acts that follow from this decree.

8. The decree comes into force in three months from the day of its publication.

[Signed] Nursultan Nazarbayev, the president of the Republic of Kazakhstan Nazarbayev, Almaty, 5 April 1994.

Tajikistan

Problems Faced by Moscow Talks Viewed

PM0604130994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Apr 94 p 1

[Report by Boris Vinogradov: "Tajiks Sorting Each Other Out in Moscow"]

[Text] A UN-sponsored and Russian-brokered dialogue between two Tajik delegations began in Moscow 5 April.

The civil war in that country has been continuing for almost two years. Tajik society is split by not only political, but also clan enmity. Having sat them down around a table, the UN secretary general's personal representative, the Uruguayan Ramirez Piriz-Bollon, noted the historic significance of the moment and voiced the hope that they will quickly find mutual understanding.

Russian diplomats have succeeded for the first time in bringing the warring Tajiks together and giving them the opportunity to communicate. The two sides are not setting prior conditions, but it clear from statements made previously that the path to agreement will be difficult.

The head of the delegation from Dushanbe—Tajikistan Minister of Labor and Employment Shukurjon Zuhurov—suggests starting with the refugee problem, regarding it as the most pressing.

The oppositionists, who are headed by former kazikalon [as transliterated] (supreme spiritual judge) Hoji Akbar Turajonzoda, who is currently living in Tehran, have brought their own package of broader ideas. They are demanding the resignation of Emomili Rakhmonov, head of the parliament, the creation of a state council involving all political organizations, the formation of a coalition transitional government, and the introduction of UN peacemaking troops into Tajikistan.

Matters are further complicated by the fact that the Tajik opposition is not homogeneous in terms of its views and demands. It can be divided into three categories: democratic, pro-Islamic, and implacable. Turajonzoda himself admits that he cannot speak on behalf of absolutely everybody who disagrees with the current state of affairs and would like a change of political system in Tajikistan. A number of opposition leaders abroad claim a special role in the leadership and do not recognize the current delegation's authority.

Taking account of the "delicacy of the matter," none of the mediators will venture an assessment of the sides' positions or predictions. Piriz-Bollon pointed out that the first step toward reconciliation must be an agreement on a cease-fire on Tajikistan territory and the Tajik-Afghan border. Everybody is in agreement with this wish.

People Follow Moscow Peace Talks With Optimism

LD0604135394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1235 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe 6 April, TASS—"The people of Tajikistan pin their most sincere hopes on the negotiations process, expecting it to bring the country civic peace and national unity, to end the confrontation and stabilise the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border," ITAR-TASS was told by Vice-Chairman of the Tajik Council of Ministers Mahmadsaid Ubaydulloyev, who is responsible for the work of security structures in the Tajik Government.

"From the very first days of the restoration of the constitutional system in the country, the Tajik leadership was ready to open a dialogue with all the constructive opposition forces that share the idea of settling all the existing problems by political means and building a democratic, secular, law-governed state," the vice-premier added. He noted the important political role played by members of the Commonwealth of Independent States, primarily Russia, and also the United Nations in the organisation of the negotiations.

Touching on the terms advanced by some representatives of the opposition, who want for a coalition government to be formed in the Republic, the prime minister said that the present government was fully legitimate, because it was elected by the country's Supreme Soviet. "As a matter of fact," he added, "this question, as well as the republic's future state pattern, can be decided only by the Tajik people, and not by individual groups of leaders." The vice premier did not rule out the possibility of a referendum, which could be held for this purpose.

Ubaydulloyev cautiously commented on the two tough statements released by the press centre of the Tajik procurator-general's office and published by the local press at the end of March. They demanded the trial of several leaders of the armed Tajik opposition, who were accused of state crimes last spring. Legal proceedings were instituted against them. He only said that "every citizen of Tajikistan, whether a rank and file person or head of the Republic, should answer for his deeds in accordance with the national laws if criminal proceedings are instituted against him. This is even more correct if we want to build up a law-governed state. However, the last dot in this question should be put by the people themselves."

Armenia

Premier, U.S. Envoy Discuss Grain, Power Station

MK0604102094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Apr 94 p 3

[Report by Armen Khanbabyan "Russia Does Not Let Humanitarian Grain Through to Armenia. Washington Unhappy Over Plans To Restore Armenian Atomic Electric Power Station"]

[Excerpts] Armenian Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan received U.S. Ambassador to Yerevan Harry Gilmore the other day. A laconic official communique to this effect said that the sides discussed a number of problems of an economic nature, including questions related to deliveries to the republic of American humanitarian aid in the shape of seed grain, and the resumed startup of the Armenian nuclear electric power station [AES].

These problems are of paramount importance for the republic's life while their solution is running into considerable difficulties. Back on 21 March, THE NEW YORK TIMES accused Russia of the fact that Moscow was to blame for the delay in bringing to Armenia nearly 2,000 tonnes of seed grain, the funds to buy which had been provided to Yerevan by the United States. Under an American-Russian agreement signed two years ago, humanitarian freight transit is not subject to customs duties; this time, however, Russian customs demanded the payment of 30 percent of the freight's cost, or $750,000 in customs duties.

Moscow seems to be ready to move the grain from Saratov where it is stuck, but the customs structures remain stubborn—while neither the United States nor Armenia intend to bow to their demand because this would create the dangerous precedent of turning a humanitarian action into a routine trade deal. Incidentally, the grain was bought by Armenia with American money in Russia which in itself has made the Russian side a considerable profit, and its stubborn desire to get additional dividends appears as not very seemly, to put it mildly. Some local analysts suppose in this connection that Russia is thus trying to put political pressure on Yerevan and Washington. Whether this is the case is hard to say but Congressman Richard Lehman, a Democrat, has already put a bill before the House of Representatives under which the United States is to cut all aid to countries obstructing the delivery of American humanitarian aid to its destination. [passage omitted]

While Washington is trying to give Yerevan the necessary help in grain supplies, the American side's attitude to the Armenian Government's intention to revive the AES is directly the opposite. Ambassador Gilmore told Prime Minister Bagratyan that in the United States there are many opponents of restarting the station. According to the ambassador, their stance is explained both by not knowing the real energy supply situation in the republic, and the fears that the Armenian side may not be able to ensure the reliable physical protection for the facility. This apparently means that the men in Washington do not intend to help finance the restoration work. In the meantime, according to specialists' estimates, the latter would cost $70 million, signifying that the project cannot do without foreign aid anyway. Under the recently signed Armenian-Russian treaty, Moscow will help Yerevan restore the AES, but this assistance will be mainly of a technical nature. It is up to the republic's government to solve the main questions of financing. It is with this objective that Sepuh Tashdzhyan, the state minister in charge of the power engineering sphere, has gone on a foreign tour to visit England and Italy. There is a hope that people in Europe will treat Armenia's request with understanding. Tashdzhyan will also visit the United States where he, as an American citizen and specialist in the field of oil and gas production, has many connections in corresponding circles. Whereas the Americans would hardly give money for the restoration of the AES, in the United States it would in all likelihood still be possible to get funds for the program of prospecting for oil and gas fields in Armenia. Indeed, if commercial deposits of oil and gas are discovered, this would spur the movement against restarting the AES in the republic and alter the authorities' intentions in this question.

Iran on Regional Karabakh Initiative

944K1022B Yerevan RESPUBLIKA ARMENIYA in Russian 2 Apr 94 p 1

[ARMENPRESS report: "Iran, Turkey, and Russia Share Common Interests"]

[Text] Morteza Bank, a high-ranking representative of the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Ankara, expressed support for intensified efforts by the countries of the region aimed at settling the Karabakh conflict. "Security in the Transcaucasus and Central Asia is profiting from the expansion of bilateral and multilateral contacts among states of the region," he stated. Iran, Turkey, and Russia have their own points of view regarding resolution of the Karabakh problem, but their common interests demand a convergence of these views, Bank noted.

Minister Seeks Foreign Funds for Oil, AES

944K1022C Yerevan RESPUBLIKA ARMENIYA in Russian 2 Apr 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Fuel—For Grain"]

[Text] As has already been reported, the United States Government has arranged to make available to the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Armenia $1 million for the purchase of fuel, which the Ministry intends to offer farms in exchange for grain. The funds will be delivered through the intermediary effort of the United States Agency for International Development and monitored by the Armenian Assembly of America. As Ashot Voskanyan, minister of agriculture of the

Republic of Armenia, stated to a Noyan Tapan agency correspondent, some of the fuel has already been purchased. The fuel will be afforded in exchange for grain, barley, and spelt wheat turned over to the state. This measure is already being successfully carried out in Gorisskiy, Sisianskiy, Araratskiy, and Artashatskiy Rayons of Armenia.

Karabakh-Azerbaijan Prisoners Exchanged

944K1022A Yerevan RESPUBLIKA ARMENIYA in Russian 2 Apr 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Six for One"]

[Text] A prisoner exchange was organized several days ago in a region of Nagornyy Karabakh by the Karabakh and Azerbaijan State Commissions for Matters Dealing with Hostages, Missing Persons, and Prisoners of War. According to data from the Noyan Tapan agency, one prisoner of war of Armenian nationality was exchanged for six Azeri hostages.

Azerbaijan

Mediator on Karabakh Issue Meets With Aliyev

LD0704132994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1048 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] On night of April 7 Vladimir Kazimirov, special representative of the Russian president and Ambassador at large, who is a mediator in the settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, met with President Heydar Aliyev in Baku. The meeting was held behind closed doors. There is no information about the details of this meeting.

On the eve of the meeting Kazimirov reported in his interview with journalists that the major goal of his present visit to Baku is the clarification of the position of the Azerbaijani party to the renewed variant of the Russian plan aimed at the political settlement of the Karabakh conflict.

The Russian plan, in particular, provides for a cease-fire and cessation of hostilities to be followed by withdrawal of the troops from the territories occupied in the course of hostilities, restoration of communications, return of refugees to their permanent place of residence, and, at the third stage, political negotiations on the legal status of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Egypt's Mubarak Receives Azeri Foreign Minister

LD0704080694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0722 GMT 7 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Rafael Bikbayev]

[Text] Cairo April 7 TASS—Egyptian President Husni Mubarak received Azeri Foreign Minister Hasan Hasanov here on Wednesday. After the end of the meeting Hasanov described the atmosphere at the talks as "excellent". "We discussed a whole range of issues dealing with bilateral cooperation, including in the political, economic and technological spheres." Azerbaijan seeks in every way to develop relations with "fraternal Egypt", he added.

Hasanov conveyed to Husni Mubarak an invitation of Azeri President Heydar Aliyev to visit Baku. In his turn, the Egyptian president invited Aliyev to pay a visit to Egypt.

The sides agreed to continue consultations and the coordination of actions within the U.N. framework and the Islamic Conference. They discussed as well the problem of Azerbaijan's joining of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The Azeri foreign minister told Husni Mubarak about the latest developments connected with the Armenian-Azeri conflict and about the efforts, exerted for settling it. He urged all Arab countries to support his country in the sphere of the coordination of actions at international organisations.

Russian Bases Plan Prompts 'Extremely Negative' Response

PM0604185194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 Apr 94 p 3

[Report by Sokhbet Mamedov of IZVESTIYA: "Azerbaijan Opposed to Creation of Russian Military Bases on Its Territory"]

[Text] Baku—The statements by certain Russian generals that they "are planning to site a military base in Azerbaijan" and Moscow's obvious desire to send its peacemaking forces into the Karabakh conflict zone have evoked an extremely negative reaction in the republic.

Many Azerbaijanis say that "the republic's authorities are unable to withstand the tough pressure from the Russian generals and have been forced to agree in principle to the fulfillment of their demands."

Azerbaijan today is the only CIS republic with no Russian troops on its territory, aside from the small number of specialists serving the Gabalinskaya radar station.

The last Russian Army units peacefully and freely left Azerbaijan in early 1993. This event, which took place during the presidency of Abulfaz Elchibey, is regarded by his People's Front comrades in arms as one of their main achievements. How did they succeed in reaching agreement with Moscow? This is still a mystery to many people. At the same time most observers note some inconsistency on the part of the Russian leadership. Having completed the hasty redeployment of its troops from Azerbaijan to the North Caucasus a year ago, today Moscow is seeking opportunities to bring them back.

"Officially Russia has made no such proposal to us," Gasan Gasanov, head of the republic's foreign policy department, told IZVESTIYA. President Heydar Aliyev was also categorical about this: "So long as I am head of Azerbaijan, there will be no foreign bases on the republic's territory."

The situation with regard to peacemaking forces is rather different. Russia, so an informed source from the republic's Foreign Ministry told IZVESTIYA, is pressing for exclusively its own military subunits to take part in the process of settling the conflict in the mountain part of Karabakh under the auspices of international organizations. But Azerbaijan, displaying natural caution, is proposing that a mixed contingent of CSCE or UN peacemaking forces be stationed along the entire Armenian-Azerbaijani border. While politicians are seeking mutually acceptable solutions, opposition forces in the republic have intimated that they will not tolerate the return of Russian soldiers to Azerbaijan in any form. "The very fact that this issue has been raised is fraught with great danger to the republic's sovereignty and independence," the People's Front has stated. The "Musavat" party, headed by Isa Gambar, former speaker in the republic's parliament, holds a similar view. "Moreover," Etibar Mamedov, leader of the National Independence Party, the most influential opposition party, stressed in conversation with your IZVESTIYA correspondent, "I would not envy the republic leader who ventured to take the responsibility of turning Azerbaijan into a military test range for any foreign state. He would be bound to be held in general contempt."

ICO Urged To Take Measures Against Aggressors

NC0604200894 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov has conveyed a letter to Hamid al-Gabid, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] to draw his attention to the threat posed to Azerbaijan by Armenia's open aggression. Gasanov informed al-Gabid that 17,000 citizens have been killed and 50,000 others have been wounded. Gasanov also informed al-Gabid that many others are either missing or have been captured. The damage caused in Azerbaijan totals more than $1 trillion. More than 1 million people have become refugees.

Gasan Gasanov expressed the hope that the ICO, which is an influential international organization, and its members will move to see to it that the forthcoming foreign ministers meeting adopts more serious measures to obstruct the Armenian aggressors.

Georgia

Agreements Planned With Russian Security

NC0604152794 Yerevan SNARK in English 0855 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Tbilisi, April 6 (SNARK)—Georgia takes an active part in the process of ensuring cooperation among the security services of the Black Sea basin countries. This declaration was made yesterday by the Chairman of State Security Service of Georgia (the former Ministry of Security) Igor Giorgadze at the press-conference held in Tbilisi.

In his words, the relations with Russia are extremely important here. He said, in particular, that the Service headed by him is going to conclude agreements on cooperation with Russian counterintelligence and reconnaissance services, President's Security and Russian frontier troops in the near future.

Georgia counts on Russia's understanding of mutual interests in the cause of ensuring security of the two states, concluded Igor Giorgadze.

Netherlander Ambassador Visits Economy Minister

LD0704111294 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 0920 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text]Tbilisi, 7 April—According to Iberia news agency, Baron de Vos van Steenwijk, the ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Netherlands, yesterday visited the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Georgia.

At the ministry, he was met by First Deputy Economy Minister Tamaz Chikvaidze, Deputy Economy Minister Otar Kakauridze, and heads of the ministry's departments.

The ambassador heard information about Georgia's economic potential. He expressed interest in the fields in which the two countries could cooperate.

The Georgian side said its priorities in cooperation with Holland lay in the field of agriculture, power and engineering, car manufacturing, communications, and personnel training.

The ambassador offered the Georgian side a program for training the personnel of small business management and agricultural technology.

President's Representative Pleased With Talks

NC0604162094 Yerevan SNARK in English 0755 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow, April 6 (SNARK)—Both Georgia and Abkhazia should be pleased with the results of the negotiations. At this stage of the talks both sides were yielding to achieve desired compromise, said in his exclusive interview to SNARK Sandro Kavsadze, Shevardnadze's personal representative.

Kavsadze is of the opinion that the UN representatives' participation in the negotiations and the Russia's positively activizing her position can be considered as the guarantee of the subsequent constructive dialog between the sides.

Debates Continue on Abkhaz Peace Deal

LD0604154494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1137 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] The Georgian parliament continued debate on the regional peace agreement signed in Moscow on Monday. Debates on the same topic the day before had yielded no results.

Opposition members have failed to offer any alternative to the peace deal, our correspondent reports.

At the same time, one opposition member Boris Kakubava has made an abortive attempt to bring a motion of no-confidence in Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze.

In an emotional address to the house, head of the interim committee for the state of emergency Jaba Ioseliani called the opposition's bluff: "What exactly do you want? If you want war, you must say so. But if you want peace, this can be achieved by moving step by step, including agreements similar to that signed in Moscow."

'Heated Debate' in Parliament

LD0604183494 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1438 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] [No dateline as received]—Deputies of the Georgian Parliament resumed today their examination of the package of Georgian-Abkhaz documents signed in Moscow. The session of the country's supreme legislative body was held in an atmosphere of heated debate and demonstrated radically different approaches to this problem.

A number of members of opposition parties and factions gave a sharply negative assessment of the latest Georgian-Abkhaz document, putting emphasis on a clause relating to the restricted return of the refugees to their original places of residence, which is conditional on their nonparticipation in hostilities and nonmembership of military formations ready to enter the territory of Abkhazia.

In the opinion of the opposition, this, being a disguised method of "filtering out" the deported people, is incompatible with the Georgian side's position. Some radically-minded parliamentarians even raised the issue of no confidence in the Georgian head of state and his personal representative at the Moscow talks, Aleksandr Kavsadze, who had signed the controversial package of documents on behalf of Georgia.

A large proportion of members of the parliamentary majority welcomed the signing of the Georgian-Abkhaz quadrilateral agreement. They believe that this step was necessary in the current situation. They see it as the only chance to allow the return of the refugees to their homeland and to influence the UN Security Council to take a decision to deploy peacekeeping forces in the conflict zone.

No Conclusions

LD0604182694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1519 GMT 6 Apr 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature no. 66 (556) compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy and edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] On Wednesday the Georgian parliament continued the discussion of the documents on a settlement in Abkhazia signed in Moscow last Monday. On Tuesday the debate produced no results.

According to a correspondent for Interfax, the opposition working against the Moscow agreements failed to make constructive proposals that would offer an alternative to the agreements. Boris Kakubava even tried to raise the question of confidence in the head of state Eduard Shevardnadze. However, the proposal did not win support from the majority.

The chairman of the provisional committee for the state of emergency Jaba Ioseliani asked the opposition: "What do you want then? If you want war, say that openly, but it you want peace, it should be approached step by step, for instance through such documents as those signed in Moscow."

Shevarndnadze's personal representative Aleksandr Kavsadze thinks that the Georgian-Abkhaz agreement signed in Moscow on the return of refugees and displaced persons is going to become a foundation for resolving the main question: the sending of a UN peacekeeping force to Abkhazia. According to him, the two sides agreed on further steps to continue settling the conflict by political means. On Friday Sochi will host the first session of the four-sided commission (Georgia, Abkhazia, Russia and the UN) for the return of refugees. The session is expected to continue in Geneva on April 12. The final decision should be made then on the sending of a peace-keeping force. On April 19 in Geneva the status of Abkhazia should be discussed by international experts and lawyers.

In the opinion of the head of the Abkhazian parliament Vladislav Ardzinba, the Moscow accords open up prospects of a peace settlement. He thinks that the main thing now is the observation of the agreements by all the sides. In an interview with Interfax he said Abkhazia would observe the agreements.

He is convinced that with an unstable situation in Georgia only the deployment of a peace-keeping force on the dividing line between Abkhazia and Georgia can guarantee peace.

Meanwhile, the head of the Georgian security force Igor Georgadze has told a news conference in Tbilisi that there are no hostilities at the moment in Abkhazia. However, he could not say whether this can be accounted to the Moscow accords.

He did not rule out the possibility that the recent acts of terrorism in Tbilisi were related to the war between criminal clans that amassed fortunes on the hostilities in Abkhazia. According to the security chief, the investigation of all the cases will be completed in the nearest future. Georgadze said security forces have proofs of links between high-ranking officials who were in charge of the military policy in Abkhazia with the looters who operated there. He said all the ties are being investigated.

Answering a question from Interfax whether Georgia is conducting intelligence activities in other countries Georgadze said: "He have our hands full with our own problems in this country."

State Committee Details Genocide in Abkhazia

AU0704065894 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 24 Mar 94 pp 1,3

["Statement by the Republic of Georgia State Committee for the Investigation Into and Publication of Materials Regarding the Policy of Genocide and Ethnic Cleansing Conducted Against the Georgian Population in Abkhazia and the Presentation of Such Materials to the International Tribunal on 15 February 1994"; place and date not given]

[Text] For one and a half years, the Abkhazian region has represented a region in which the most tragic events of the end of the 20th century have been taking place.

Fascist-minded separatists, who have encroached upon the territorial integrity of Georgia, have provoked an armed conflict that has been maintained to a significant degree by external forces. Having temporarily achieved a military victory in the region, the separatists set about conducting operations aimed at the elimination of the Georgian population in Abkhazia, while violating the elementary norms of international humanitarian law and carrying out the practice of genocide and ethnic cleansing. World opinion, however, has not given a proper assessment of these facts.

A special state committee was established and entrusted with gathering materials testifying to the fact that the policy of genocide and ethnic cleansing is continuing to be implemented.

The process of gathering facts has already begun. This special investigative body attached to the General Procurator's Office, which is now conducting a criminal investigation into facts of genocide and ethnic cleansing against the Georgian population in Abkhazia, has carried out a huge amount of work. The materials that have been collected contain proof that genocide against the Georgian population carried out by Abkhazian separatists and their associates was planned in advance.

There exists convincing evidence of a deal between the organizers and perpetrators of these heinous crimes and their accomplices, whose ultimate aims are violation of the territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia and the elimination of thousands of innocent people who have been condemned to this terrible fate only because they are Georgian by nationality.

In spite of convincing evidence to the contrary, certain sides are stubbornly continuing to deny that genocide is taking place in Abkhazia and are vainly asserting that it is a question of the "usual cruelties of war." Such an assessment of this concrete phenomenon is nothing other than an attempt to deceive the world community.

There exists a multitude of evidence indicating that preparations for carrying out ethnic cleansing in Abkhazia had been going on for many years. The Abkhazian mass media, scientific journals, and other sources had been constantly accusing the Georgians of artificially reducing the size of the local Abkhazian population. It became all too obviously clear that the Georgian population was doomed to annihilation. However, who was to fill that huge vacuum formed as a result of the expulsion of a group of people numbering more than 200,000? The answer was received during the course of the conflict when Mr. V. Ardzinba [leader of the rebel Gudauta grouping] and his associates publicly proposed to the inhabitants of the North Caucasus and adjoining countries to the east that they join their side and fight against the Georgians, promising them as a reward "a place to live and citizenship."

As a result of this treacherous plan, hundreds of thousands of Georgians were banished from their homes and became the victims of indescribable physical and moral suffering and blatant outrages: Their homes and property were destroyed and their cattle and cars stolen. The treatment to which the Georgian population was subjected made it impossible for them to live any longer in Abkhazia as they were facing the threat of physical elimination.

The results of the current investigation will provide irrefutable evidence to all the interested parties that the ethnic cleansing conducted in Abkhazia was premeditated.

Almost immediately after the fall of Sukhumi on 27 September 1993, hostilities between the opposing sides ceased. However, the investigation has established that the extermination of noncombatants continued on a large scale even after the cessation of combat operations; it has proof of this.

There exists convincing evidence that cynical monstrous crimes are continuing to be committed against the peaceful population: A great many women have been raped and savagely tortured and there have been cases of women having their breasts cut off while still alive. Even these terrible facts would already be sufficient to press charges. However, one cannot refrain from saying that it has not only been women, but also children and teenagers who have become the victims of these atrocities. The nipples of victims collected by the perpetrators of these monstrous crimes in matchboxes are the terrible trophies of these heinous deeds. Greeks, Armenians, Russians, and people of other nationalities, along with Georgians, are raising their voices as testimony to these actions and I am making a statement with full responsibility regarding these facts.

In order that the world has a clearer idea of the aims of the Abkhazian fascists and has a true picture of the tragedy brought about by their actions, it is necessary, as a matter of urgency, to direct the attention of international organizations to these facts in all their cruelty.

According to the testimony of witnesses, there have been many cases of innocent people who have been killed having the following inscription carved on their bodies: "Don't eat so much, Georgians. Don't get fat. It's difficult dragging your corpses."

It is impossible to read without a shudder the testimony of witnesses regarding the agony experienced by the Georgians who remained in Sukhumi after it was captured by Abkhazian separatists.

Listen to the fate of engineer Nugzar Dzhimsheleyshvili who worked in the Council of Ministers. His father Varlam Dzhimsheleyshvili was captured. His house was destroyed and his grandmother, Babutsa Pipiya, and mother-in-law, Mziya Kalandiya, were tortured and then killed.

Listen to the fate of the helpless L. B. (for understandable reasons, I am only using his initials) who was brutally murdered. One of his students buried him. This student, whose nationality was Russian, suffered the same fate simply because he had buried a dead person in the proper manner.

Listen to the fate of 60-year old V. Moniya who hid in his neighbors' house; he was found and killed.

It is beyond the scope of this document to relate the tragic fates of M. Mirtsklava, the married couple Kvaratskheliya, V. Argobliani, A. Gadeliya, T. Gegechkori, Yu. Kvartskheliya, D. Dgebuadze, S. Kakuberi, and T. Kakuberi-Gvakhariya. All of them were Georgians and neighbors on Tsereteli Street and, to their misfortune, remained in Sukhumi after its fall; no one now knows where they lie.

What about the fate of other Georgian residents of Sukhumi—D. Darchemeliya, the Zakradze brothers, S. Karchava, Ye. and Z. Abramiya, F. Kalandiya, T. Shariya, V. Kvachakhiya, A. Kintsurashvili, D. Kopeliani, and M. Kvirchkhaya?

Behind each name is a person who, at the end of the 20th century, encountered the surge of fascism and who was shown no more mercy than the victims of fascism at all other times.

According to the testimony of witnesses gathered during the course of the investigation, official representatives of the Government of the Abkhazian Autonomous Republic became the victims of isolated and group murders. It should be emphasized that there are a great many such cases of which there is documentary proof.

Materials relating to the murder of Zhiuli Shartava, chairman of the Council of Ministers, and his aides are also relevant to the question under examination. The evidence gathered during the course of the investigation has enabled us to establish that Mr. Shartava and his aides were seized in Sukhumi and subjected to particularly cruel torture. A postmortem examination has revealed that, before being murdered, they were tortured in a monstrous way.

The murder of Shartava and many other senior employees in the apparatus of the Abkhazian Council of Ministers was sanctioned by the same group that provoked the armed uprising against the Georgian state and its citizens.

The policy of genocide and ethnic cleansing continued to be resolutely implemented even during the period when negotiations were proceeding in Geneva. Although the aim of these negotiations has been to find an acceptable peaceful settlement to the conflict, they have served only as a smoke screen for the Abkhazian side, hiding behind which they have continued to implement their barbarous policy. Instead of supporting the peace process, the Abkhazian side is continuing to create an atmosphere of fear in order to hinder the safe return of displaced persons and refugees to their homes. This is borne out by the events that took place quite recently in Gali rayon in Abkhazia.

On 2-3 February 1994, Abkhazian forces, supported by heavy artillery and tanks, launched an offensive against villages in Gali rayon. During the following 10 days, all buildings in Okumi, Mikhumi, Tsarche, Pirveli, Gali, Rechkhi, Tskhiri, Gumprishe, Konstitutsiya, Kokhora, and other villages were razed to the ground. According to information in our possession, the modern "Grad" artillery system was used and poisonous gas was used in the village of Gumurishi. More than 800 houses were destroyed and hundreds of people taken hostage. The killing and intimidation of the peaceful population forced people to abandon their villages and seek refuge in the mountains. Thousands of women, children, and elderly persons attempted to escape the terror: They fled along snow-blocked paths, leaving behind them mothers frozen to death along with their children and old men and women who were unable to endure the severe conditions created both by nature and man. More than 2,000 exhausted people managed to avoid death and find refuge in Zugdidi, Tsalenjikha, and other towns in western Georgia; many of them were taken to hospital suffering from frostbite.

We are witnesses to the implementation of the typical policy of ethnic cleansing that is one form of genocide.

It should be pointed out that the Gudauta separatists did not allow UN observers based in Sukhumi to visit the region where the repressions took place.

Are these brazen actions not an open challenge to the UN that is conducting peace-making efforts and even to the whole civilized world?

During the course of this investigation, the identity of those who, under the patronage of the Abkhazian separatists, are carrying out genocide against the peaceful population has been clearly established. The materials gathered testify to the fact that the tragedy in Abkhazia constitutes a crime against humanity.

[Signed] Committee Chairman Professor Levan Aleksidze **This letter was distributed as an official document in the UN Security Council.**

Opposition Withdraws Proposal To Denounce Accord

LD0604211394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1919 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] The Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze told parliament in Tbilisi that the return of refugees and displaced persons to Abkhazia was the main point of the agreement signed in Moscow. If they return, Abkhazia will effectively stay within Georgia, he said. Even though the document was not ideal, Tbilisi had to compromise because there was no other way to win the lost war.

Shevardnadze said that unless the refugees returned, "a confederation with Abkhazia will remain a dream. Any opportunity to have the refugees return to Abkhazia should be seized. Without this there is no point in talking about Abkhazia's status or a political solution of this issue...They will not have another chance to return."

Following Shevardnadze's speech the opposition withdrew its proposal that the agreement should be denounced and that a vote of confidence in Shevardnadze be taken. Shevardnadze himself demanded that such a vote be taken once the government is approved.

The Georgian parliament will resume the debate on the government composition on April 7.

Georgian TV To Resume Normal Working 10 Apr

LD0604173694 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1400 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Tbilisi, 6th [dateline as received]—The Tbilisi metro and television will return to their regular work pattern from 10 April, an IBERIA correspondent was told at the Tbilisi Energy Department.

Power engineers say they are expecting more electricity supplies from Azerbaijan and the completion of repair work at the Enguri hydroelectric powei station cascade.

Estonia

Delegation Head Previews 18th Round of Talks

PM0604150594 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 6 Apr 94 p 3

[Interview with Vaino Reinart, Estonian delegation head at Russian-Estonian talks, by RIA-NOVOSTI correspondents Igor Klyuyev and Aleksandr Veretennikov in Tallinn; date not given: "Estonia Is Not About To Agree to Compromises Designed To 'Perpetuate the Occupation'"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] The 18th round of Russian-Estonian talks opened in Moscow yesterday. Ahead of this event Estonian Delegation Head Vaino Reinart answered RIA-NOVOSTI correspondents' questions.

[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI] According to the Estonian press, the republic leadership is extremely pessimistic about the chances for the 18th round of Russian-Estonian talks. Is that right?

[Reinart] Not at all. The Estonian delegation is going to Moscow with a calm heart. The somewhat unexpected turn of events at the 17th round of talks caused a stormy reaction in Europe, which clearly confirmed the correctness of our stance at the talks. The demand for the Russian troops to be withdrawn by 31 August this year won the unequivocal support of NATO, the CSCE, the EC, and the United States. At the same time it was stressed that the withdrawal must be effected without any additional terms being put forward. I hope that Russia too has drawn the necessary conclusions from the international reaction and chosen a more constructive approach than the one it voiced during the last round.

[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI] It is known that the preparation of a general treaty regarding the troop withdrawal, including the settlement of matters pertaining to military pensioners, has been a stumbling block in the negotiating process. There are reports that Estonia is drafting new wordings of some agreements that will now be acceptable to the Russian side. Can you confirm that?

[Reinart] The Estonian delegation has naturally spent all this time working on various drafts and we hope that Russia too has not abandoned the quest for constructive solutions. The main troop withdrawal treaty was ready during the last round and I do not really understand why we were not able to initial it. I cannot see Russia's proposed changes regarding the text that has already been coordinated as anything but Russia's reluctance to complete the work on this draft treaty. Estonia's priority in this round of talks is to complete the preparation of the troop withdrawal treaty as required by the resolutions adopted by international organizations. We are of course willing to discuss the draft agreement on social guarantees for military pensioners and we hope that Russia will give up its demands for Estonian legislation to be amended in order to secure decisions beneficial to it.

[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI] The Estonian Government has approved and submitted to parliament the draft law on the border whereby Estonia's land border is fixed in accordance with the 1920 Tartu Peace Treaty. Does this mean that your delegation will raise the question of territories during the 18th round of talks?

[Reinart] Estonia has not taken any unilateral steps regarding the border issue. We believe that such actions will not bring us closer to really resolving the problem. In its proposals Estonia acts on the principle of international law whereby interstate borders are fixed by international treaties. The only treaty fixing the border between Estonia and Russia is the Tartu Peace Treaty, which is still valid today. Despite the Estonian side's repeated requests, Russia is refusing to provide legally valid explanations that accord with the principles of international law as to why the border should run through an area not prescribed by the Tartu Peace Treaty. Russia has also responded in the negative to Estonia's suggestion that this question be submitted to the International Court of Arbitration in The Hague for consideration, which, as you know, only examines contentious issues with the consent of both parties. If Russia is so convinced of its arguments, I cannot understand why it is not willing to resolve this issue on the basis of international law.

[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI] Latvian Delegation Head M. Virsis described the results of the Russian-Latvian talks as a "difficult compromise for both sides." Is Estonia ready for such "difficult compromises," will it take its neighbor's experience into consideration?

[Reinart] Russia has repeatedly said that the example of another Baltic country—Lithuania, from which Russian troops were withdrawn without the corresponding treaty's being concluded—does not set a precedent for Estonia and Latvia. The corresponding Russian-Estonian and Russian-Latvian draft treaties were different from the very outset just as certain aspects were also different. Estonia has already made "difficult compromises" with Russia by agreeing to the final date for the troop withdrawal by 31 August this year. The possibility of a certain number of military pensioners obtaining residence permits in accordance with Estonian legislation is also a compromise. Estonia is not about to agree to any compromises—difficult or easy—that are designed to perpetuate the occupation. We hope that Russia is also prepared to act on the basis of the principles of international law when resolving the remaining problems.

Russia Sets New Conditions for Troop Withdrawal

LD0604121694 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1100 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Russia continues to set new additional conditions on Estonia for a troop withdrawal. This is stated in an Estonian Foreign Ministry statement disseminated in Moscow today.

During the 18th round of Estonian-Russian interstate talks, which began yesterday in Moscow, the Russian side set a condition that Estonia should amend its legislation to enable all retired servicemen to qualify for residence permits, regardless of [words indistinct] they have lived in Estonia. [Words indistinct] to pay the $23 million as compensation toward the building of housing for the withdrawing servicemen on active service.

The Estonian Foreign Ministry is puzzled by the Russian statement (?that it is unaware of international support given to Estonia).

The Estonian side hopes that the negotiations today will be more constructive than they were yesterday and that Russia is prepared to hold talks over issues which are not in conflict with the existing Estonian legislation.

Further Details of Changes

WS0604202994 Tallinn ETA in English 1707 GMT 6 Apr 94

["News Release"]

[Text] On Wednesday [6 April], Russia removed the clause in the draft Russian-Estonian troop withdrawal agreement obligating Russia to pull its troops out of Estonia by 31 August 1994, saying the final date would reappear in the draft agreement if Estonia altered its legislation on military retirees, Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed ETA. In essence this move, which came on the second and final day of the 18th round of bilateral negotiations, in Moscow, set talks back to last August, before Russia had proposed a final withdrawal date, the Ministry says in its statement.

After last month's round when Russia announced that the already agreed upon final withdrawal date of 31 August 1994 was "no longer current", numerous states and international organizations, including NATO, the European Union, the CSCE, the Nordic prime ministers and the United States, publicly expressed their support for the Estonian position and urged the Russian Federation to keep the final date. In the wake of this overwhelming support for Estonia, top Russian Federation leaders, including Defence Minister Pavel Grachev and Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, reiterated that 31 August 1994 was still in force.

On this background Estonia came to the current round of talks in good faith expecting to initial the withdrawal agreement which was ready to be initialed in last round, the Ministry states. "However, by continuing to link troop withdrawal to additional and irrelevant conditions today, Russia clearly signalled that it did not in fact intend to keep the final withdrawal date," the statement stresses.

According to the Estonian Foreign Ministry, Russia linked the final withdrawal to two additional conditions. First, Russia heightened demands on demobilized former Soviet military officers, insisting that "Estonia deem all its relevant legislation null and void," the Ministry says. Second, despite numerous offers of Western aid, the Russian side called on Estonia to pay the Government of Russia 23 million U.S. dollars directly.

In addition, the manner and tone of the Russian side suggests that Russia has hardened its position, the Ministry states. For the duration of the round, Russia "presented its positions in a more or less ultimatum style", introducing its own proposals as "non-negotiable", the statement goes on. For instance the Russian side told the Estonian side outright that the final date would reappear in the draft withdrawal agreement as soon as Estonia agreed to alter its legislation on military retirees.

Progress in the three remaining baskets of negotiations-economic, border and humanitarian questions-remained stalemated as the Russian side waited for progress in the military group, the Ministry informs.

This round marked the second anniversary of Russian-Estonian negotiations. The Estonian side remains hopeful that during the next round, proposed by Estonia for next May in Tallinn, Russia will bring a more constructive approach to the talks and will both signal its clear intention to pull out its troops as well as come to Tallinn prepared to negotiate practical solutions not contradictory to existing Estonian legislation, the statement of Estonian Foreign Ministry concludes.

Luik on 'Dead End' in Russian Talks

LD0704060094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0532 GMT 7 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Mineyev]

[Text] Brussels, April 7 TASS—Visiting Estonian Foreign Minister Juri Luik said at a press conference here on Wednesday that negotiations on the withdrawal of Russian troops from Estonia have reached a dead end "because of the Russian side's excessive demands".

The minister is in Brussels for talks on strengthening ties between Estonia and the European Union. He said the two sides are going to sign an agreement on Estonia's associated membership in the European Union in autumn of this year. An agreement on free trade between them can come into force from January 1, 1995. The minister said Estonia's ultimate aim was full membership of the European Union.

"We are ready, everything now depends on Brussels' decision," the minister said. ITAR-TASS learned from sources in the European Commission that the question about the further expansion of the European Union will be considered only in 1996.

While in Belgium, the Estonian minister held talks with officials of the West European Union. According to Minister Luik, he was assured that the Baltic countries would soon be able to establish closer ties with the WEU policy.

Negotiators Give News Conference

WS0704084194 Tallinn BNS in English 1821 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Tallinn, Apr 06, BNS—The Russian delegation at talks with Estonia today announced that Russia won't withdraw troops by Aug. 31, 1994, the Estonian Foreign Ministry says in a statement issued after the ending of the 18th round of negotiations between the two countries in Moscow today.

Russia officially withdrew the article in the draft agenda on troop withdrawal that set Aug. 31 as deadline for the pullout.

The Estonian Foreign Ministry says that because of Russia's position, the talks by now have fallen back to the situation that existed before last August when Russia first said it will pull out its forces by next Aug. 31.

Estonia's chief negotiator Vaino Reinart told reporters that Russia at the latest round of talks had set ultimative demands. Also the statement by the Estonian Foreign Ministry terms the "manner and tone" of the Russian delegation at the past round as ultimative.

"This gives proof of the positions of the Russian side having become more rigid," the statement reads.

The Aug. 31 deadline was first disputed by Russia's chief negotiator Vasily Svirin at the 17th round of the talks in March, when Svirin said the deadline was "no longer actual." In the latest step, the Russian delegation at the Moscow round on Tuesday [5 April] set a demand for Estonia to change its laws and give all retired Russian military living in the country permanent residence permits, regardless of whether their staying in Estonia in legal or not. Russia also again took up its earlier demand that Estonia must pay 23 million USD to build houses for the repatriated military in Russia.

Russian representatives today said their country was ready to withdraw troops if Estonia, as they put it, will resolve the issue of residence permits for the retired military and of ensuring their social security.

Both heads of delegations at a press conference today said the parties had failed to reach any "constructive cooperation" at this round of the talks. Russia's Vasily Svirin reminded that not a single draft document under discussion has been initialed during the four latest rounds of the talks.

The Estonian Foreign Ministry in its Tuesday's statement pointed out that a number of foreign countries and international bodies, including NATO, the European Union, CSCE, the Nordic prime ministers, and the United States, after the March round of Estonian- Russian talks publicly expressed their support for Estonia and suggested that Russia withdrew its troops by Aug. 31 this year.

Reinart said Russia's demands to grant permanent residence permits to all its retired military in Estonia, a step that needs changing Estonian legislation, was in contradiction with resolutions by international organizations that press for a speedy, orderly and unconditional withdrawal of Russian troops from the Baltics.

The head of the Estonian delegation explained to BNS that a big number of the retired Russian military in Estonia were quite young and that many of them also had served in the Soviet military intelligence, KGB, or special task force units. Therefore, he said, some of the military pensioners are a jeopardy for Estonia's security.

His Russian counterpart quoted data at the press conference that only some 1,600 of the 10,000 retired Russian military in Estonia were under 50 years of age.

"The overwhelming majority of them simply want to live their lives to the end peacefully, and we are asking our Estonian partners—let's provide them the possibility to do this," Svirin said.

Both heads of delegations said the countries despite everything had no plans to break off the talks.

Reinart told BNS Estonia had taken the issue of breaking off the talks "off from the agenda". The country after the 17th round considered suspending the negotiations or changing the set-up of its delegation.

At the same time Reinart added that Estonia continued to deliberate the possibility of calling in mediators. The head of the Russian delegation in his comments said his country was not opposed to the prospect of mediation by a third party, but added that in such a case the talks would no longer be bilateral.

The Estonian delegation proposed to convene for the next round of the talks in Tallinn in May, and expressed hope that Russia then would agree to discuss issues that are not in contradiction with Estonian legislation.

Ministry Shares Latvia's Concern Over Bases

LD0704104994 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1000 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] The Estonian Foreign Ministry has voiced serious concern over the order issued by the Russian Federation president on 5 April of this year, on setting up Russian Federation military bases on the territory of CIS states and the Republic of Latvia, with the aim of both ensuring security in those states and testing military equipment.

Estonia shares the Latvian Government's concerns that the above order constitutes an immediate danger to the independence and security of a sovereign state. The Estonian Foreign Ministry finds that setting up military bases on the territory of one or another country is determined by the will of the people in that country, and not by any orders from the Russian leadership. This particular case is a dangerous example of the Russian foreign policy's great-power ambitions [words indistinct]. The Estonia Foreign Ministry holds the position that the relations between Russia and the Baltic states can develop only in the spirit of mutual respect, on the basis of international standards.

Border Guard Killers Reportedly Flee to Russia

WS0704075894 Tallinn BNS in English 1507 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Tallinn, Apr 06, BNS—The men who shot a Russian border guard and wounded two on the Estonian-Russian border on Apr. 1 supposedly fled to Russia, said the head of the Estonian Border Guard Department, Tarmo Kouts.

But he added that this was only what the investigators say most likely happened, and that there were several other versions.

Kouts said the suspects had not been caught yet. Russian border guards say the shooters were two men who spoke Russian without foreign accent.

The incident happened when a Russian patrol unit of three about 3.50 stopped two men some 300 meters from the border with Estonia. The men opened fire from their TT pistols and fled when a patrol car called from the Russian cordon approached the site. One member of the Russian patrol was killed and two were taken to a hospital with serious bullet wounds.

Estonian Ambassador Juri Kahn was called in by the Foreign Ministry in Moscow the same day, where he received an appeal addressed to the Estonian law enforcement bodies to help find the criminals. Kahn said the Russian side had no doubts that the incident was of a criminal character.

Kahn said he had been made clear that the Russian Foreign Ministry leadership did not regard the incident as a provocation.

Opposition Member Urges More Active Policy at UN

WS0604112294 Tallinn BNS in English 0913 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Tallinn, Apr 06, BNS—Estonia must step up its activity from present in the United Nations and try to push through a resolution that would declare it inadmissible to carry out wide-scale state supported programs aimed at changing the demographic situation in occupied and annexed territories, opposition politician Hardo Aasmae said.

After such a resolution is adopted, all accusations against Estonia concerning the country's law on aliens and citizenship law would have no more sense, Aasmae said in an interview. He said chances were high that such a resolution would be passed in the United Nations in a simple majority vote if Estonia's policy before that was active enough.

The opposition politician says Estonia must hurry with its efforts toward the adoption of the resolution, because the country will be left with one good argument less in support of its campaign after the Russian troops have left.

Aasmae predicted support for Estonia's move from a number of Islamic countries, who are interested in positively resolving the issue of the West Bank territories occupied by Israel.

"It is quite probable that support for us will also come from Japan, who has interest in resolving the problem of the annexed South Kurils, as well as from many countries who are interested in the unity of Cyprus. Also the overwhelming majority of European countries and the United States would find it difficult to vote against that resolution, since they have mostly always denounced occupation and annexation," Aasmae said.

Riigikogu Adopts Transit Law of Strategic Goods

WS0704092494 Tallinn ETA in English 1607 GMT 6 Apr 94

["News Release"]

[Text] Estonia's parliament, the Riigikogu, on Wednesday [6 April] approved a law regulating the transit and export of strategic goods.

"Undoubtedly, this is of no special interest to Estonia—I think that during next decades we are not planning to supply us with such weapons," Estonia's Environment Minister Andres Tarand said on commenting the new law.

The law, however, enables Russia or some other foreign country sell missiles or other weapons to other countries through Estonian ports, Tarand said.

The law initiated by Estonian government regulates export and transit of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, Tarand said while adding he did not approve transit of such environmentally hazardous materials. Such activities, however, provided international rules are observed might bring Estonia economic benefits.

Government To Join Nuclear Defense Conventions

WS0704092594 Tallinn ETA in English 1607 GMT 6 Apr 94

["News Release"]

[Text] Estonian parliament on Wednesday [6 April] decided to join five nuclear defence conventions obliging Estonia to inform international community immediately of any accidents.

Joining Vienna and Paris conventions entitles Estonia also to certain international rights and enables the country to apply for help in case of accidents, Tarand said. He also stressed that these conventions would be a basis for negotiations if anything should happen when Russia removes its nuclear training reactors from Paldiski, a former submarine training base for the Soviets.

Government To Rechannel Farm Exports From Russia

WS0704092194 Tallinn BNS in English 1821 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Tallinn, Apr 06, BNS—Estonia must try to rechannel its farm exports from Russia to other countries as much as is possible, Agriculture Minister Jaan Leetsar said in his comments on a meeting of farm unions and producers associations, held on Tuesday [5 April].

Russia has introduced imports tariffs on products from the Baltics, effective from Apr. 15, two times the level at which it tariffs goods from most other European countries.

Estonia's exporters should become organized and step up activity in the countries outside Russia's borders, as well as on Estonia's own domestic market, Leetsar said.

The Agriculture Ministry together with the Foreign Ministry are now trying to start negotiations with Russia on cutting down the tariffs to an equal level with other European countries, the minister said.

The meeting on Tuesday also discussed possible introduction of tariff barriers to protect the domestic market in Estonia, but since the market is not completely saturated with Estonian-made products and there is no political readiness for such a step, no move was made past discussion, he added.

Latvia

Protest of Yeltsin Decree on Military Bases

LD0604165694 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1600 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Russia plans to maintain about 30 military bases on the territory of the former Soviet Union. President Boris Yeltsin has issued an official decree on the creation of 30 bases in accordance with proposals from the Russian ministries of defense and foreign affairs. Most of the bases are to be located in the CIS, in the 12 former states of the USSR that have arisen since the collapse of the Soviet Union, with one base in Latvia, at Skrunda.

In Latvia and Estonia there is still a contingent of Russian troops, about 20,000 men, due to be withdrawn by the end of the summer.

As Mikhail Kolesnikov, chief of staff of the Russian Armed Forces, stated, nearly all former Soviet republics have expressed the wish to have Russian military bases set up on their territories.

Aleksandr Rannikh, ambassador of the Russian Federation, was summoned to the Latvian Foreign Ministry today and requested to present by tomorrow an explanation for the decree signed by Russian President Boris Yeltsin on 5 April. (Maris Riekstins), secretary of state at the Foreign Ministry, expressed a categorical protest at the intention, formulated as a decree, to create military bases of the Russian Federation's armed forces in the CIS states and the Republic of Latvia, for the purpose of ensuring the security of the Russian Federation and the countries indicated, as well as trying out new arms and military techology; this is in clear contradiction with the agreements reached at international talks and the position of (?free) Latvia.

After the seminar being held by the Cabinet of Ministers on the national programs, there is to be an extraordinary session of the government at Jurmala this evening, at which an official statement from the Latvian Government is due to be adopted regarding this decree of Yeltsin's.

Birkavs, Others Denounce Decree

LD0604175594 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1700 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] After the seminar held by the Cabinet of Ministers on the national programs, an extraordinary government session is due to be held at Jurmala this evening, at which an official statement by the Latvian Government will be adopted regarding the decree of Russian President Boris Yeltsin on creating 30 military bases. As Latvian Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs stated at a news conference this evening, this step by Russia seizes on the intention not to allow the conclusion of a Latvian-Russian treaty on troop withdrawal. The premier explained that this action by Russia makes it practically impossible to conclude this treaty.

Such a step was to be expected from Russia, as the package of agreements is favorable to Latvia and guarantees Latvia's membership of Europe and the European Union, which is what Russia dislikes most of all. The Latvian premier believes that the document was adopted in the interests of Russia's conservative circles and under their influence, which, as is evident, concur with the interests of national radicals in Latvia. Birkavs explained that such action by Yeltsin is also unacceptable from the viewpoint of international law. Latvian Defense Minister Valdis Pavlovskis expressed the view that no military bases are in any sense necessary for Latvia.

Martins Virsis, leader of the Latvian delegation in the Latvian- Russian interstate talks, also said that this action by Yeltsin is contrary to documents already signed, and no such thing was envisaged in the text of the agreement. This is a new stance in Russian foreign policy, or it could also be viewed as pressure from Russian radical forces on the president of Russia. Virsis said he had consulted Zotov, leader of the Russian delegation, but at present not even he has access to any more precise information. Virsis also reported that consultations are being held with representatives of those countries that advocated concluding such a Latvian-Russian treaty. At present it can be predicted that if this decree is not revoked, then the Latvian-Russian treaty cannot be signed and ratified.

Andrejevs: Treaties Cannot Be Signed

LD0604193794 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1700 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Here is a comment from Foreign Minister Georgs Andrejevs on the news received today that Russia is trying to keep its military bases in our country.

[begin Andrejevs recording] At this time, after getting acquainted with this document, and discussing this document in the government, as well as talking with representatives of one or two other countries' governments, the impression arises that President Yeltsin has given in to the influence of more conservative forces in Russia, which have evidently come through the Ministry of Defence, putting forward such demands, or proposals, let us say for the present, knowing beforehand that they are not acceptable to Latvia, absolutely incompatible with either the letter or the spirit of the draft treaties, agreements, worked out long and hard, which have been initialled in Moscow, so that their signing will not take place at all [sentence as heard].

That is how we have to interpret it, and all three essential things are included in (?the first line of) this order, namely: the establishment of military bases; the testing of new types of armaments on their territory; and the guaranteeing of the security of these countries mentioned, including the Republic of Latvia, to be undertaken by Russia; so, for all three of these announcements the Latvian Government makes its explanations.

We have never agreed to the development of these military bases in Latvia, as at present none of the military units has the status of a military base in Latvia. We have never allowed the testing of new types of Russian armaments. And we have not delegated to Russia the right to provide us here with security for this country in the event of another country's attack.

All this is mentioned in the statement adopted by the government, which will be read out in full on television as well. Tomorrow it is to be introduced to the envoys of countries accredited here, and of course in the press the full text will be [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Discussions on Bases Ruled Out

LD0604200694 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1900 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] The government of the Republic of Latvia categorically states that it has not agreed, does not agree, and never will agree to the creation of a military base by the Russian Federation, nor to the testing of new armaments and military technology on Latvian territory, and it rejects any possibility of discussion on these issues, says a statement adopted at the extraordinary session of the Cabinet today concerning the decree signed by Russian President Boris Yeltsin on 5 April on the creation of Russian military bases in the CIS states and Latvia.

The statement says that the order of the Russian president sharply contradicts the draft treaties prepared by the Latvian and Russian delegations, initialled on 15 March, on troop withdrawal, and the order can be regarded as Russia's unwillingness to sign these treaties. The Latvian Government views this order as blatant bowing to pressure from the reactionary imperialist circles in Russia It demands an explanation from the Russian Federation concerning this order, and it also demands again the withdrawal, without reservation, of all the Russian troops and military personnel who are illegally on Latvian territory.

Latvian State President Guntis Ulmanis also says in a statement that Yeltsin's announcement creates justified fears for the intended meeting of the Latvian and Russian presidents and the possible development of political dialogue. It does not testify to the stability of Russia's internal and external politics, and it reduces faith in Russia as a partner in treaties. In the past few hours Ulmanis has tried to talk with Leonid Mayorov, commander of the Baltic Military District, and the Russian president's administration, but he has received no reply. This proves a certain evasiveness about offering an explanation, the statement says. Latvia will never allow the creation of a Russian military base on its territory, Ulmanis says.

Sweden's Bildt Cautious

LD0604211594 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 2000 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs has disclosed that on Wednesday he had a telephone conversation with Swedish Prime Minister Carl Bildt, in which the Swedish leader was cautious about the order from Russian President Boris Yeltsin [on establishing military bases], and expressed the supposition that Russia could revoke the document, as has repeatedly happened with Russian statements. At a news conference Birkavs said that recently Russia has adopted resolutions testifying to its unwillingness to normalize relations with Latvia: For example, it has decreed very unfavorable customs tariffs for mutual relations and high levies for the use of roads. [passage omitted]

Ministry Demands Explanation

WS0704084694 Tallinn BNS in English 1821 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Riga, Apr 06, BNS—Latvian Foreign Ministry demands that Russian Ambassador Aleksndr Rannikh gave by April 7 explanations to Russian President Boris Yeltsin's April 5 order to set up military bases in several countries, including Latvia.

The Latvian Foreign Ministry protests against Russia's intentions to set up Russian army military bases in CIS states and Latvia to guarantee the security of the above mentioned states and Russia, as well as to test new arms and military equipment. Russia's decision contradicts with the agreement, reached during the Latvian-Russian interstate talks.

Yeltsin has ordered Russian Defense Ministry and other interested institutions to start talks with the CIS states and Latvia on signing the appropriate documents.

The Latvian Cabinet plans to hold an extraordinary meeting Wednesday [6 April] evening in Jurmala to adopt an official governmental announcement on Yeltsin's above mentioned order.

Decree Seen as Threat to Summit

LD0704101294 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 0900 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] As you know, a decree signed by the president of the Russian Federation, in which Boris Yeltsin agrees with a proposal from the Russian Defense Ministry to create military bases on the territory of CIS member states and in the Republic of Latvia, became known yesterday. The aim of the proposal is to ensure security of the Russian Federation and the above-mentioned countries, as well as to carry out tests for new kinds of armaments and military equipment.

Commenting on this reasoning, Latvian Foreign Minister Georgs Andrejevs stressed that at least on the part of Latvia nobody has asked for such a security guarantee and that the Russian Federation has no right to willfully take responsibility for Latvia's security.

The decree instructs the Russian Foreign Ministry, together with the Defense Ministry, to hold talks on this issue with the Republic of Latvia and to enshrine reached agreements in corresponding documents.

According to Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis, this decree contradicts the treaties initialed at the talks between the government delegations of the two countries and casts doubt on the Russian delegation's true intentions in the process of preparing the treaties. According to the state president's office, the Russian side's move is causing anxiety about a meeting scheduled to take place between the presidents of the two countries.

In a telephone conversation with [Latvian Prime Minister] Valdis Birkavs, Swedish Prime Minister Carl Bildt gave a cautious assessment of the Russian president's decree and voiced the assumption that Russia may rescind the document, as has already been the case many times with Russian statements.

A session of the security council took place at the Maikapara House this morning. At this moment, the Russian Embassy in Latvia is holding a news conference.

Envoy Apologizes for 'Mistake'

LD0704105094 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1000 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Replying to a request from the Latvian Foreign Ministry for an explanation of Russia's intention to set up military bases in CIS member states and the Republic of Latvia, Aleksandr Rannikh, Russian ambassador to Latvia, said the Russian side is acting in accordance with the fact that all the issues related to the withdrawal of its troops from the territory of the Republic of Latvia, as well as the status of and the conditions for temporary functioning of the Skrunda radar station, were resolved in documents coordinated and initialed on 15 March this year.

According to the above-mentioned agreement, the Skrunda radar station is a Russian military facility under civilian control and cannot be regarded as a military base.

Commenting on President Yeltsin's decree of 5 April this year, Mr. Rannikh apologized, explaining that the text is due to a technical mistake.

Envoy Explains 'Error'

LD0704114494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1129 GMT 7 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Kuchina]

[Text] Riga April 7 TASS—"There was a misunderstanding due to a technical error" and "this instruction has nothing to do with Latvia," said Russian Ambassador in Riga Aleksandr Rannikh, bringing his apologies to the Latvian side for technical errors, as a result of which wrong interpretation was made of the Russian president's instruction.

The ambassador stressed that "Moscow is guided by the fact that all issues connected with the withdrawal of troops from Latvia and with conditions of temporary operation and the status of the radar station in Skrunde, were settled in the documents initialled by the two countries' delegations on March 15".

The documents lay down that the radar station is a Russian military establishment, under civil control, and cannot be regarded as a military base.

At the same time, the ambassador expressed surprise that a xerox copy of the instruction saying about an alleged establishment of Russian military bases in Latvia, reached the Latvian Foreign Office quicker that the Russian Foreign Ministry.

"Such efficiency prompts some considerations," Rannikh said. Moscow will examine the incident, since it "is detrimental to our relations, which we regret," the ambassador stressed.

According to Rannikh, the incident which provoked a sharp reaction in Latvia, prompts a conclusion on the need for the earliest signing of the documents agreed in mid-March.

The Russian president's press secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov also made explanations at a news conference on Thursday. According to the press secretary, "the Russian side does not raise the question of deploying any bases in Latvia. The radar station in Skrunde cannot be regarded as a base.

"All issues connected with the withdrawal of Russian troops from Latvia were already settled in the Russian-Latvian agreement which was recently initialled."

Western European Union Delegation Arrives

LD0704094794 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 0800 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] A delegation from the political commission of the Assembly of the Western European Union has arrived in Riga for a working visit. The guests are interested in Latvia's foreign and defense policy, as well as in our parliament's work. Results of the visit will determine future cooperation between the Western European Union and Latvia.

Cabinet Members Continue Seminar on Issues

WS0604153394 Riga LETA in English 1430 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Riga, April 6 (LETA)—Wednesday [6 April] the cabinet of members [as received] headed by prime minister, Valdis Birkavs, will finish the two-day discussion of state national issues. The leader of each program, who could be mister [as received] or any other official, is responsible for its elaboration.

The discussion also included the issues of macroeconomic stabilization, advanced power industry in Latvia, development of national transport, environment protection in the Baltic Sea, national program of development of the Latvian rural areas and the programs "Education and Science" and "Latvian Residents."

Russian-Language Daily Publishes Poll on Pact

WS0604153494 Riga LETA in English 1430 GMT 6 Apr 94

[From the "Latvian Press Review"]

[Text] Riga, April 6 (LETA)—The Russian-language daily "SM- SEGODNJA" published the survey of a poll. Among 918 responders asked whether the Saeima [parliament] should ratify the troop withdrawal agreement with Russia or not, 38.8 percent found it a necessity, 22.3 percent said it is possible, 13.5 percent are against it and 25.4 percent of responders failed to answer. The comments upon the poll said the results promise vague hopes for the opponents of the agreement. Besides the support of ratification of the agreements among the native population is higher than that of the Russian-speakers.

Energy Enterprise Threatens To Cut Off Heat

WS0704092094 Tallinn BNS in English 1821 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Riga, Apr 06, BNS—The Latvian capital, Riga, will be cut off from heating and hot water supplies for four hours April 4 unless the local governments cover part of their debt to the Latvenergo enterprise by that date, Latvenergo President Gunars Koemecs.

The decision was taken in compliance with a resolution by the previous government, Koemecs said.

The heating supply won't be suspended to kindergartens, schools and nationally important institutions.

In total, local governments owe Latvenergo 19 million lats for the 1993-1994 heating season. In addition, local governments fixed lower heating tariffs (0.20 lats per square meter of floorspace) than the Board of Electric Energy and Heating Tariffs 0.38 lats per square meter of floorspace).

Latvenergo plans to meet with local leaders on April 12.

The enterprise has already cut heating to 63 consumers, hot water to 65 consumers and 359 consumers have been warned of the measures.

Latvenergo owes the Latvijas Gaze (Latvian Gas) enterprise 60 million lats for natural gas supplies.

Latvijas Gaze itself owes Russia 34.2 million USD. Russia has already warned the enterprise's management that its Gazprom consortium will stop pumping gas into the Latvian Incukalns container unless Latvijas Gaze covers the debt until May 1.

Latvijas Gaze plans to cover part of the debt with a 23-million-dollar Japanese credit. Another 11 million USD could be collected from debtors, the enterprise's management said. Local consumers owed Latvijas Gaze 42.5 million lats on March 20.

Lithuania

Ministry Supports Latvian Protest Against Edict

LD0604220894 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2100 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Unilateral action taken by Russia aimed at setting up military bases in Latvia against the will of a sovereign state run counter to the principles of international law and obligations—which had been undertaken by Russia as a member of the United Nations and a participant of the CSCE—the statement of the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry reads.

On 5 April, Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed an edict according to which approval is given to the proposal by the Russian Ministry of Defense to set up Russian military bases on the territories of CIS countries and Latvia for testing new weapons and military equipment.

Lithuania supports in every possible way Latvia's desire to have the Russian troops withdrawn from her territory and declares that only the Republic of Latvia has the right to decide the military basis of what state can be deployed on her territory, the statement of the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry reads.

Envoy: Politics 'Stumbling Block' to Ties

WS0704075494 Tallinn BNS in English 1507 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Vilnius, Apr 06, BNS—A successful development of economic relations between Lithuania and Russia is obstructed by political problems, the Lithuanian ambassador to Russia told the Vilnius-based Lietuvos rytas newspaper.

Romualdas Kozyrovicius said the main stumbling block in the development of economic relations is Russia's failure to ratify an agreement according to which the two countries would reciprocally grant the most favored nation trade status to each other. The agreement was signed in Vilnius last November.

The ambassador said a major political problem is that Russia links the ratification with the signing of a package of agreements concerning the Kaliningrad region.

Kozyrovicius emphasized that Lithuania still pays double export taxes to Russia which automatically leads to higher retail prices for Lithuanian goods. "This damages the interests of both states," the Lithuanian diplomat said.

Commenting on Russia's plans to ratify the treaty after a package of "Kaliningrad agreements" is signed with Lithuania, Kozyrovicius said the fact "causes worry" because no such conditions were made when Lithuanian and Russian premiers signed the treaty in Vilnius. "How can we speak about other agreements with Russia when it changes the terms so rudely."

The ambassador said a bilateral agreement on transit is under preparation, but Russia also wants to sign an agreement on military transit. In Kozyrovicius' view, there is no need to sign a military transit agreement because respective agreements would then have to be signed with Belarus, Latvia and even Poland.

The ambassador said the best solution for Lithuania would be to adopt a law on transit and to sign an agreement on settlements and payments. But Russia insists on a bilateral military transit treaty, he said.

In Kozyrovicius' words, Lithuania is concerned about the increasing concentration of military force in the Kaliningrad region. But the ambassador emphasized that the region rightfully belongs to Russia and Lithuania has no territorial claims.

Kozyrovicius said "observing how servicemen move to Kaliningrad from the Baltics, Germany and Russia," Lithuania will continue efforts to demilitarize this Russian enclave.

Further Explanation

LD0604222994 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2100 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Lithuanian-Russian economic relations are impeded by political reasons, Lithuanian Ambassador to Russia Romualdas Kozyrovicius maintains.

Russia has not yet ratified the treaty on trade and economy signed last fall granting the most favorable trade regime. In an interview to the daily LIETUVOS RYTAS [MORNING OF LITHUANIA], Kozyrovicius maintains that Russia does not intend to ratify this treaty until a packet of agreements on the Kaliningrad region have been signed.

According to the ambassador, when last fall the Russian and Lithuanian prime ministers signed the inter state economic treaty, there was no condition raised to Lithuania that the agreement coming into force was directly linked with the political agreement on the Kaliningrad region.

Speaking about new treaties with Russia, the draft treaty on transit through Lithuania to Kaliningrad was singled out by the Lithuanian ambassador. According to the ambassador there was no need to have such a treaty at all. He believes that it would be best if the Lithuanian Seimas could adopt a law on transit, which would embrace all the conditions.

Speaking about the agreements on the Kaliningrad region, Kozyrivicius stressed that the treaty should be of an inter state and not a geographical nature. At the same time the ambassador pointed out that the continuing militarization of the Kaliningrad region caused concern to Lithuania. He also stressed that Lithuania recognized all Russia's rights to this territory and that Lithuania had no claims.

President Approves New Privatization Agency

WS0604150694 Tallinn BNS in English 1312 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Vilnius, Apr 06, BNS—Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas on Tuesday [5 April] approved a new composition of the Central Privatization Commission.

The commission is be headed by 55-year-old Deputy Economics Minister Kestutis Baranauskas.

Seven out of twenty commission members, including the new chairman, were members of the previous privatization commission which resigned in mid-February.

The earlier commission, headed by ex-Economics Minister Julius Veselka, resigned after the president made some sharp critical remarks about its work in his annual report earlier this year.

The new commission is expected to gather for its first meeting this week. The previous commission held its last meeting Feb. 28.

Premier Admits to 'Number of Wrong Steps'

PM0604152994 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Apr 94 First Edition p 6

[Vladas Burbulis report on interview with Lithuanian Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius; date and place not given: "Tallest Premier Wants To Be Self-Critical"]

[Text] March 31 marks a year since the day when the Lithuanian Seimas approved the program submitted by the country's sixth government. The 48-year-old Adolfas Slezevicius was then charged with heading the cabinet. Introducing him to their readers, the newspapers joked that the new premier and, consequently, the new Lithuania is just two centimeters short of complete happiness (Slezevicius is 198 cm tall).

The "boy" and his government have been in power for a year. What has been accomplished and what has not been? This ITAR-TASS correspondent put that question to the prime minister.

The premier preferred to be self-critical this time. We have been forced, he said, to make unpopular decisions. For instance, we could not keep buying gas from Russia at double the price at which it is sold in Lithuania, since our debt was snowballing. The same thing has been true of electricity, in order to ensure that its prime cost does not exceed the retail price.

[Burbulis] Has the current government made any mistakes which it has later had to correct?

[Slezevicius] Yes, it has taken a number of wrong steps which have damaged the economy and people. One of the most important and worrying problems is that of settlements between economic players, and mutual debts—which currently stand at around 900 million litai (approximately $200 million).

[Burbulis] For the first time Lithuania's prime minister is also the chairman of the ruling party—the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party. How are these two jobs being combined?

[Slezevicius] I think that this is the democratic Western model for running a country—when the party which wins the election forms the cabinet.

Premier, Karazija Discuss Agricultural Situation

WS0704092294 Vilnius ELTA in English 2014 GMT 6 Apr 94

[From "News Bulletin" No. 472]

[Text] Vilnius, April 6, ELTA—Lithuanian Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius and Agricultural Minister Rimantas Karazija discussed the agricultural situation in Lithuania during a radio programme on Wednesday [6 April].

They informed the listeners that there were about 110 thousand farmers in Lithuania. A half of the total try hard to take maximum advantage of their land, others are waiting for the time when they will be able to rent or to sell their land at high price.

There are 200 thousand people who want to get their land back. There are 3 thousand agricultural enterprises. Unfortunately not all of them are economically strong, 11 percent of them will fall apart by the end of the spring.

The officials warned that part of the land might remain unseeded this year. This firstly concerns the land which has no owners and there is nobody who could rent it.

According to the estimations made by Agricultural Ministry, the fuel for the seeding period alone will cost 100 million litas. Extra money should be raised to liquidate the debts of industrial enterprises. The sugar-refineries owe 46 million litas. It is believed that the agricultural plague will be reduced by the council for purchase and coordination of produce.

Paper's Criticism of Nationalists Cited

PM0604155594 Moscow TRUD in Russian 5 Apr 94 p 5

[Article by Juris Tubinis: "Lithuania: Kindred Spirits"]

[Text] Zhirinovskiy's brothers live in Lithuania. We are not talking about blood relatives, of course, but a kind of spiritual tie. Certain Lithuanian politicians are full of utterances which in essence are close to Vladimir Volfovich's ideas. These painfully familiar thoughts and ideas are obviously marked with the ethnic "quality stamp." And that is not all: Vladimir Volfovich's words reverberate because they carry from vast Russia, while similar utterances connected with the special interests of certain Lithuanian politicians are mainly well-known only within the borders of the tiny republic.

Fortunately, so far the ideas of the youth organization "Jaunoji Lietuva," for example, that "measures must be taken" to change the ethnic composition of the inhabitants of Vilnius, where Lithuanians account for only 52.5 percent, have not attracted any state support. The proposals made by "Jaunoji Lietuva" are as follows: In the near future, to give up the broadcasts in Russian and Polish which are relayed on Lithuanian state radio, to stop the immigration of Russians to Lithuania, and to adopt measures to ensure that university lectures are not read in Russian. All these ideas were voiced at a meeting with the republic's President A. Brazauskas.

But there is a topic that may cause as much of a stir as Zhirinovskiy's speeches, because it concerns something that is complex and important for the region's European policy—the Russian enclave of Kaliningrad Oblast. Kaliningrad, which local "patriots" only call by its Lithuanian name, Karaliaucius, is one of the trump cards of the republic's national-radicals. At the meeting with the president, the youth organization's spokesman L. Antanavicius stated that....recognizing that Kaliningrad belongs to Russia creates danger for the Lithuanian state and a threat to the security of the Lithuanian nation.

A lot of people just smile at this: What can you expect from the spokesman of a youth organization? They are young, green, and irresponsible. But faint similar notes can be heard increasingly often in what serious Lithuanian politicians have been saying. Philosopher and Seimas Member R. Ozolas, for instance, believes that since the USSR has passed away, it has yet to be decided whether Russia should control this region....

It is evidently no accident that the OPPOZITSIYA [Opposition] newspaper has also paid attention to the "Zhirinovskiy phenomenon in Lithuania," specifically owing to claims to an inalienable part of Russian territory. There are a lot of Zhirinovskiy's in Lithuania, the newspaper wrote with alarm. The young Lithuanians' appeal, "We Will Not Calm Down Until We Get Karaliaucius," was much publicized, particularly in Kaunas. The newspaper focused its attention on the fact that S. Lozoraitis, A. Brazauskas's former rival at the presidential elections, was supported by the majority of Lithuanian parties and movements, and, after all, it was specifically he who talked about "Lithuania's interests in Kaliningrad Oblast."

The republic's official authorities have gradually changed their stance in respect of the oblast from a neutral one—let the process develop naturally, they said—to a prejudiced one: They started saying traditional things at international level about the danger apparently emanating from Kaliningrad Oblast in connection with the Russian troops that are there.

But Zhirinovskiy's kindred spirits in Lithuania are not diplomatic at all. OPPOZITSIYA reported that a brochure written by someone by the name of J. Ramanauskasis is being circulated at enterprises and organizations in the city of Kaunas, and it expounds the policy tenets of the "Party of the Revival of the Forefathers." This party will strive to unite Lithuanians, Latvians, and Prussians (a nationality which disappeared several centuries ago) into a single nation by means of campaigning to unite all the lands of the forefathers from Karaliaucius to the Estonian border, from the upper reaches of the Daugava River and the Neman to Naugardukas and Brasta.

"Is he not a Lithuanian Zhirinovskiy?", the newspaper exclaims. "He does not ask the Latvians, or the hundreds of thousands of Belorussians, or the Russians in Kaliningrad."

"The musical [zamuzitsirovavshiysya] leader of the opposition is unable to refrain from making statements that Russia has no rights to Kaliningrad Oblast, while another similar politician, who has gone over the top in his philosophizing and who has moved from the center to the right, explains that the oblast should be divided up between Lithuania and Poland," OPPOZITSIYA cites these words from a letter from one of its readers. Another author draws attention with alarm to the fact that such notes can also be heard in speeches by an eminent politician from the party that is currently ruling in Lithuania, Seimas Member B. Genzialis.

According to an OPPOZITSIYA reader, whose opinion the newspaper cites in full, it is precisely because of such daydreams by certain Lithuanian politicians that the Kaliningrad YANTARNYY KRAY newspaper once expressed its opposition to the monument to Gerkus Mantus, leader of the uprising by the vanished tribe of Prussians against the crusaders, which has been erected. The reader believes that this reaction is not surprising if you recall the speeches that have recently been heard in Lithuania about " 'the reunification' of Prussia"...

The Lithuanian Zhirinovskiy's do not understand how they are harming Lithuania, OPPOZITSIYA writes. As one of the letters says, "in a normal state the authors of such provocative statements and others like them would be taken to court if they were of sound mind, or they would be put into a psychiatric hospital if not." In the opinion of the newspaper, though, they are not that dangerous to the world, but they could bring a lot of misfortune on Lithuania....

Actual Unemployment Said To Exceed Official Data

WS0704075594 Vilnius ELTA in Lithuanian 1037 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] As of 1 April this year, Lithuania had 68,000 job seekers registered. Among them, unemployed people accounted for more than 28,500. Forty-four percent of the unemployed were recorded in big cities, while the remaining quota—in the province. The rate of unemployment remained unchanged in comparison with last month—3.2 percent. Unemployed people included mostly workers and women. There were about 20 people competing for each job vacancy.

Specialists from the Lithuanian Labor Exchange claim that the official statistics do not reflect the actual situation on the labor market. According to them, it would be naive to believe in such a low unemployment rate when production turnout has dropped by 60 percent in the country over the past three years, and the previously prosperous enterprises producing machines and electronics have been moribund. For example, the hidden unemployment is masked when thousands of workers go on long unpaid leaves.